

# Reports to Council

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Week Council Trinity 2016

Becky	Howe	President	<b>Received</b>
Ali	Lennon	VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities	<b>Received</b>
Lucy	Delaney	VP Women	<b>Received</b>
Nick	Cooper	VP Graduates	<b>Received</b>
Cat	Jones	VP Access & Academic Affairs	<b>Received</b>
Emily	Silcock	VP Charities & Community	<b>Received</b>
Tom	Wadsworth	Academic Affairs Campaign Officer	<b>Received</b>
Adam	Kellett	Access & Admissions Officer	
Hilal	Yazan	Black & Minority Ethnic Students Officer	<b>Received</b>
Eric	LeGresley	Clubs and Societies Support Officer	<b>Received</b>
Yoni	Stone	Community Outreach & Charities Officer	<b>Received</b>
Fairlie	Kirkpatrick Baird	Environment & Ethics Officer	<b>Received</b>
Bo	Zhang	Grad Academic Affairs Officer	<b>Received</b>
Gabe	Rusk	Grad International Students Officer	<b>Received</b>
Rebecca	Kuperberg	Grad Welfare Officer	<b>Received</b>
Kirithi	Bellamkonda	Grad Womens' Officer	
Katy	Haigh	Health & Welfare Officer	<b>Received</b>
Meera	Sachdeva	International Students Officer	
Catherine	Kelly	LGBTQ Officer	<b>Received</b>
Dorkina	Myrick	Mature Students' Officer	<b>Received</b>
Ronak	Patel	Disabled Students' Officer	<b>Received</b>
Holly	Roy	Student Parents and Carers' Officer	<b>Received</b>
Tuesday	Doherty	Womens' Campaign Officer	<b>Received</b>

## **Sabbatical Officers**

### **Becky Howe – President**

Hi all,

A quick snapshot of what I've been up to in the last couple of weeks:

- I've written OUSU's annual Impact Report, which lets you and the university know what we've done for students this year.
- Lucy (VP Women) and I hosted a day of panel discussions on lad culture, to launch our new campaign, Not In My University: Redefining and Confronting Lad Culture Today. This is based on a lot of work we've done as part of an NUS pilot scheme on lad culture. It went really well!
- I've been working with Ali and Nick on writing up our report on student welfare and support.
- I've been planning training for common room presidents, which will be on Wednesday 18th May.

Take care,  
Becky

### **Ali Lennon – VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities**

Dear Council,

Below are some of the things I've been working on this week. But firstly apologies for not bringing the promised anti-Semitism policy through this week, I received a lot of feedback and want to perfect it before next council.

- Welfare Officer Training – I ran two sessions for welfare officers. These included elements regarding the Student Advice Service, lobbying, knowing limits and thanks to the Vice-President for Women First Responder training.
- DSA – I sought the input of OSDC and the Disabled Students Officer on the upcoming DSA changes that I discussed at length in a working group. The good news is the colleges are doing a great deal to ensure that these changes do not negatively impact students, a bit of work still needs to be done here but I believe the colleges and university are doing a great deal to support those in receipt of DSA.
- STI Screening – in coordination with the advice service and sexual health Oxfordshire and with thanks to the St Catz JCR President, Sarah White we ran a screening event in which over one hundred students got tested. This is the best turn out the NHS have had from a session at the university.
- Security – at a recent committee I argued for greater protection of student data and requested that improvements be made on how the university responds when things go wrong. I have previously discussed this issue with the University on three occasions and am eager to see improvements.
- Examination Preparation – in coordination with the Exam Schools I assisted with an event aimed to improve student confidence around exam time I advertised the event and spoke at it to around a hundred students.
- Prevent – I've provided a number of comments on the Prevent Welfare Protocol, which aimed at safeguarding students, and preventing wrongful involvement of government services. I've

also requested that anyone subject to the protocol be automatically signposted to the Student Advice Service as an independent source of support who can assist with complaining or challenging developments under the protocol.

- Welfare Survey – this has become a huge task that has required lots of out of hours work in the office. Hang tight and it'll be with you soon.
- Leadership Development – in coordination with the VP Women and the President I've developed a short leadership course proposal to address the former Assessor's recommendation that OUSU should mainstream the experience of BAME students in its work. This course will aim to encourage and prepare those students from underrepresented groups to acquire positions of leadership in OUSU and other student led organisations. This proposal will be circulated via the liberation campaigns so that improvements can be made.

Any questions fire me an email.

All the best,

Ali

### **Lucy Delaney – VP Women**

#### **First Respondent Training**

I have been running even more First Respondent Training – I am also running more this week and the next, to ensure that as many Women's and Welfare Officers are trained to receive disclosures of sexual violence and signpost survivors to the right support and services.

#### **Women's Officer Training**

I have been planning and updating the training that I ran last term for Women's Officers, so that they are better equipped to deal with the many aspects of their role, can link up with each other, and make the most out of their time.

#### **Lad Culture Symposium**

On Saturday myself and OUSU President Becky Howe hosted 'Not In My University', a symposium comprising four panels, to launch our anti-lad culture campaign as part of the NUS Lad Culture Audit Pilot. It went very well, and there were speakers from WomCam, It Happens Here, CRAE, OSDC, LGBTQ Campaign, and we were also joined by the NUS National Women's Officer Susuana Amoah. There were some fantastic discussions on lad culture and its effect on marginalised groups, and I will be typing up a more detailed report on how it went shortly.

### **Nick Cooper – VP Graduates**

Evening, Council! First of all, **I'm holding a Graduate Forum on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> week, 6pm, OUSU to discuss what issues are particularly affecting all kinds of graduate students, what OUSU should be prioritising, and how OUSU can work better to engage graduate students. Email me to say you are coming, please. There will be pizza and maybe even wine. Definitely juice.**

Here's what I've been up to; please get in touch if you have questions/comments:

- **Committees** – It has been a busy fortnight for these, but a productive one.
  - ***Graduate Panel*** discussed the Graduate Supervision System and graduate reporting and took on almost all of our recommendations to improve it from 2017. This is a really useful win.
  - ***Education Committee*** looked at the recommendations from last term's Student Written Submission, replying to each. We had a very useful discussion on how to improve DPhil submission rates.
  - ***Research Committee*** agreed as to the importance of DPhil students to research in the University (some members going as far as to say we were the "primary drivers" of research; remember that one). A small working group has been set up to discuss where the University should move to better engage research students.
  - ***Joint Student Number Planning Subcommittee*** discussed the concerns of accommodation and facilities when considering increased student numbers. We also looked at part-time provision and the gist is that more needs to be done.
- **Access Vision** – We've ran a few focus groups on this, to discuss where OUSU should focus its effort on access (on my side, graduate access). Cat and I are hoping to bring a draft to 5<sup>th</sup> week Council, with a view to gathering your thoughts, and then taking a final copy to 7<sup>th</sup> week.
- **Masters focus groups and survey** – Just to say: still running focus groups (many have raised similar issues; also plenty of specifics), and will start analysing data this week. Going to the University in 9<sup>th</sup> week.
- **Graduate welfare** – We had an extra 250 responses from graduate students to the Hilary Term welfare survey, which is good. I've been churning through the data, and by the time you read this, will have merged it with the undergraduate report Becky and Ali are writing. It will then go to the University for discussion. Due to the lower response rate, its findings will be combined with other data we've collected when thinking about how to take the crucial issue of graduate welfare forward.
- **Common Room support** – I've met with a few more graduate Common Room Presidents, and we had a useful meeting of Presidents last week, kindly hosted by Barney of St Antony's. Good food was had.
- **OUSU internal stuff** – Some governance (see motions on elections and Council rules) that will hopefully make participation in OUSU simpler; planning handover (not long left) and liaising with my Part Time Executive to see how they want to take their terms forward. We also had the Teaching Awards which were so great: thanks to everyone at OUSU for putting it on, everyone who nominated, and everyone who came.
- I also went on leave for a long weekend to attend a wedding in Malta. It was warm, noisy and great.

Until the next time, I remain,

Nick

### **Cat Jones – VP Access and Academic Affairs**

**Suspended Status.** On Monday I attended a meeting with a sub-set of Senior Tutors who are working on guidance for colleges in relation to suspension. I have received a draft copy of the guidance and will be discuss the content with SusCam this week. I hope that we will be able to encourage all colleges to sign up to some minimum principle at Senior Tutors' Committee in week 6. I encourage all Common Room reps to continue lobbying their Senior Tutors for access to college facilities and for a halt to

punitive pass-marks on re-entry collections.

**The Teaching Awards.** On Tuesday last week I co-hosted OUSU's annual Teaching Awards gala. We received a record-breaking 658 nominations from students and the ceremony recognised 95 shortlisted members of staff and rewarded 26 winners. The event was totally at capacity with over 300 people joining us at the Town Hall for the presentation of the awards and stand-out performances from Okiem and the Oxford Belles. It was undoubtedly the biggest and best Teaching Awards OUSU have delivered and I would like to thank all the OUSU staff for helping me to tick off another pledge.

**Access Vision.** Work is well underway on our Access Vision. Last week I held multiple 2-hour focus groups with Access Reps, CRAE, first generation students, Moritz-Heyman scholars and the African and Caribbean Society. Every focus group was immensely interesting and they have given us a huge amount to consider for the draft which will come to Council in week 5.

**Supporting Common Rooms.** Last week I held an Access Rep Forum and an Academic Rep Forum. We used the Academic Rep forum to deliver 'Campaigning for Educational Change' training to the Academic Reps. The training was well-received so we will be updating the material and recommending that my successor runs it again in Michaelmas.

**Committees.** As usual I have represented you on a number of committee since our last Council. These were; the Joint Fees and Student Support Advisory Group, Education Committee, Regionalisation Working Group and Exams Panel.

### **Emily Silcock - VP Charities and Community**

*Hi Council,*

*Hope you're having a lovely third week. Here's what I've been up to:*

#### *Environment and Sustainability*

- Had the final Environment and Ethics rep dinner of the year, which went really well. I've also arranged for them to have lunch with the Sustainability department at the university in 5<sup>th</sup> week.
- Started planning for clear outs of food and other household good for the end of this term.
- Started up a group to look at getting edible planting across the city.

#### *Voter Registration and Local Elections*

- Organised husts of the local election candidates and publicised the election date. Really pleased to say that turnout was higher than in 2014!
- Set up #Pledge2Reg to get people to register to vote ahead of the EU referendum. We currently have 550 pledges and the Electoral Services office has said that they've had a notable increase in requests to register.

#### *Bikes*

- I've been looking into setting up a scheme to sell cheap, good quality bikes to students ahead of next term.

#### *Campaigns*

- I've been talking a lot about rehashing my campaigns and this is now pretty much complete. If council passes my motions today, this is what they're going to look like:

- Environment campaign – this will include divestment, but also much much more environmental campaigning in different areas. We has the first meeting of this last week and it went really well. I've excited to see this campaign become as big as RAG!
- Community campaign – this will be made up of sub-groups campaigning on different community issues. It will include On Your Doorstep and the Living Wage Campaign, but it will also have the capacity to set up new subgroups campaigning around things like housing and cycle provision.
- Global justice campaign (name tbc) – this will bring together the campaigning that we do on global issues (eg. the refugee crisis) but it will focus on meaningful action on a local scale (eg. getting scholarships at Oxford for those with refugee status). I've recruited an acting chair for this campaign, who I'm supporting to make it happen!

#### **RAG**

- RAG Casino has needed a lot of attention this week, but it's been fantastic to see how much better it's got in the space of a week. (Much credit to the Casino manager, Justine).
- We launched RAG's flagship event for this term, the Three Peaks Challenge on Monday – sign-ups are open!
- I've also been handling a potential sponsorship deal with EY.

*As always, please do get in contact at [vpcandc@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vpcandc@ousu.ox.ac.uk).*

*Emily*

#### **Part-Time Executive Officers**

##### **Tom Wadsworth – Academic Affairs Campaign Officer**

I have had a productive time at the beginning of this term. First of all I had a meeting with Cat from which we decided that I should continue with my work with SusCam but also help compile a google drive of useful resources for Academic Reps. Since then I have been asking around as to what resources the academic reps would find useful to collate. This should help overcome the issue of CR academic reps not doing much because of a lack of ideas or understanding. I am also continuing to work with SusCam where we had a great talk on Mental Health 2 weeks ago and have begun planning how to continue with policy this term. There was also an academic reps meeting where common room reps were trained in how best to deal with college when trying to push for change. I also helped out by presenting at the OUSU teaching awards for the best lecturer category. Hope everyone has a great council and enjoys democracy. Because that's what we all love. Right?

##### **Hilal Yazan – BME Students Officer**

I've been working on preparing the race workshops for this year's freshers week with Farheen, Co-Chair of CRAE. On Friday we met with Dr Zimba from the Equality and Diversity Unit to discuss both the workshops, and other ideas for events CRAE could put on in the coming year. We're going to run facilitator training this term, and would like to spread them to even more colleges, so if anyone is interested in running them in their college, please do get in touch!

### **Eric LeGresley – Clubs and Societies Support Officer**

During a productive meeting with Becky Howe, I was able to suggest several possibilities that may improve the society design and accessibility to the resources required to put together functional clubs. This included setting up a stall at freshers' fair dedicated to explaining the process of setting up a club. This stall would be at the beginning of the fair in the OUSU section and be potentially titled "Is a Club Missing?" This stall would have representatives of OUSU and potentially the proctors office. I also suggested that a full list of the registered clubs and respective presidents be published each term on the new OUSU website. I am close to finished the Club's and Societies road map that I mentioned in my last report.

### **Yoni Stone – Community Outreach and Charities Officer**

Venue is confirmed for the Oxford Donors event in conjunction with NHS Blood and Transplant. Will be in Radcliffe Square and will give everyone the opportunity to find out which blood type they are and join the register, with a view to hopefully donating soon! Look out for a Facebook event coming soon!

### **Fairlie Kirkpatrick Baird – Environment and Ethics Officer**

Hi Council!

These past two weeks I've been working on the Guide to Being a Sustainable Student. We now have several drafts for sections – transport, food, reuse/recycling, and plastic reduction. We will also hopefully have a clothing section in the next few weeks, as well as water reduction and a few mini-sections like sustainable holidays. The committee has met and begun to edit the sections, and I have been working on making sure they are all action-focussed and adding suggestions for extra ideas if necessary. Our next steps are to refine the content and begin to put it together in the final form that we'll give to the designer. I also chaired the first meeting of Emily's environment campaign, which is the new campaign that will be taking over the current E&E campaign. Several groups attended and the meeting was very promising. I look forward to working more with the campaign and seeing how it develops.

### **Bo Zhang – Graduate Academic Affairs Officer**

I am currently working through the results of the D.Phil. supervision survey. The hundreds of free response comments are closely examined. The analysis of the results will be relayed back to university and colleges to improve future D.Phil. supervision and graduate quality.

### **Gabe Rusk – Graduate International Students' Officer**

I will continue my best to increase representation of international reps in MCRs. The ways and means to achieve such goals will be measured for their relative efficacy. One of my original goals in this position was to complete a form or informal survey of the needs of international graduate students. I hope by

the end of the term to produce that report and pass it off to my successor. Hopefully that can use this information to make tangible changes in favor of international graduate students.

**Rebecca Kuperberg – Graduate Welfare Officer**

Hi all,

I am working on planning two events for 5th week, a Grad WelfCom for MCR Welfare Officers (others with welfare roles are welcome!) and a second workshop dedicated to welfare and well-being in fieldwork and research. Please be in touch with any questions about these or anything else.

Rebecca

**Katy Haigh – Health and Welfare Officer**

Dear Council,

Not much to report at the moment as I have been prioritising academic work. I attended the launch event for Rainbow Peers and was glad to see so many people turn out to support the endeavour, and as usual I am making headway to fulfilling my manifesto promises.

Best,  
Katy

**Catherine Kelly – LGBTQ Officer**

Over the last two weeks I have organised an LGBTQ Campaign open meeting and elections, in which the campaign elected a new chair, secretary, treasurer, sexual health working group leader, disabilities rep, arts rep and general committee members. We also discussed our plans for the term ahead, including an 'LGBTQ Campaign goes to Campsfield' event on Saturday for the national day of solidarity with detained people.

I organised the first LGBTQ college reps meeting of term- which unfortunately I had to postpone due to illness. At the meeting I will be organising training events in order to train LGBTQ reps to facilitate the newly completed LGBTQ 101 workshops.

I have also been in discussions about the Queer Consent workshops which need updating, and about the university wide transition fund which hopefully we will make progress on over the next term.

**Dorkina Myrick – Mature Students Officer**

**Activities Since the Last OUSU Council Meeting**

I am resigning from my position as Mature Student Officer effective Wednesday, 4 May 2016, due to increased course and personal responsibilities in Trinity Term 2016.

Serving OUSU has been a joy and a privilege, and I will truly miss you all.



I would like to thank all of you for your support and assistance in the fulfillment of my duties, and I wish you all the best in your continued service.

### **Ronak Patel - Disabled Students' Officer**

The DSA cuts workshop went well and was very informative. There has been a slight delay in getting the notes and recording of the talk due to technical difficulties though these should be available soon.

After consulting with the disability advisory service and student advice service we have agreed in order to not duplicate work, it would be most useful for me to work on setting up disabled student feedback sessions run by college reps, to work towards my pledge of seeking feedback from disabled students about their experience of studying at Oxford. With the guide material I have already drafted and further meetings with university staff I now aim to tweak the resources for facilitators of these feedback sessions and to keep disabled reps aware of the process. We aim to have the college feedback sessions started by Michaelmas 2016. We hope to keep these sessions as an annual occurrence with the support of OUSU and university staff.

We have had a receptive response from many disabled common room reps both via email and in turnout to the DSA Event. I am now working on organizing an informal get together for reps in 5th week to hear what work they are doing that OUSU can help with and also discuss future joint disabled rep initiatives, including the feedback sessions, and initiatives to lobby colleges to take up accessibility audits.

A lot of my time recently has also gone into helping campaign to stay in the NUS, as for a wide variety of reasons I believe this is an extremely important resource for me and future disabled students representatives and campaigners at Oxford.

### **Holly Roy – Student Parents and Carers' Officer**

A quiet couple of weeks.

A number of student parents have signed up for a BBQ we will be having at Green Templeton College at the end of May.

A hackathon was carried out last term to look at which colleges have information available on their websites about parenting/pregnancy. We now have a list of colleges with very little information on their websites and are planning to send out an email to them about how they could improve their websites from a student parent point of view.

A similar project to ask University Departments to review their student parent and maternity funding policies is underway.

### **Tuesday Doherty – Womens' Campaign Officer**

This term WomCam have been focusing on self-care and increasing the intersectionality of our events. We held elections in 1st week and now have a new publicity officer, WOC rep and general committee

member. We ran a creative writing session on Monday 2nd of May with art supplies, writing prompts and discussions of how we can express ourselves through creativity, which was well attended and gave us many contributions for our zine. We have had weekly meetings as a committee to discuss our term card and make sure that we reach as many people as possible, with our secretary being trained in chairing meetings. We have set up an event at St.Catz in their 200 person lecture theatre where we are showing a screening of Beyonce's lemonade and a panel of 5 black women who will be discussing the intersection of race and feminism. We are looking forward to the rest of term and feel that the expected attendance (which is currently at 300 people) for the Beyonce event will boost future WomCam events and our next elections that we are planning to run in 4th week. Events coming up this term include self-care boxes, well-being walks and a cross campaign social.