

**President
Kirsty McNeill**

F and F: Well, I don't think anyone expected that, did they? Least of all me. The occupation was, in my view, an unprecedented success and a testament to the kind of fellow-feeling that can be engendered even in an atomised collegiate University. The bravery of the non-payers astounds me and the level of support they have received from normal students across the University just goes to show the respect with which peaceful acts of political courage will be met. Thanks specifically for the occupation are due to about three hundred people but I'll only mention a few here: the sabs- your unwavering support (both in terms of the logistics and the principles of the occupation) was perhaps the most inspirational thing I've experienced all year: Oxford students are very very lucky to be served by the five of you. The entz people- for keeping the occupation fun as the sun went down. The logistics people- I can't thank you personally because I've lost track of the number of people who went chalking/on poster runs/ sat outside in minus 2. Will, Rachel and Philip for being so **normal** and proving quite conclusively that you don't have to know where Marx is buried to care about access to our universities. Every single participant- without whom etc. Most of all, the non-payers- for taking a heavy burden on behalf of all of us.

Looking forwards, plans for seventh week are progressing well. Every academic with a scheduled lecture for the day of the shut-down has been written to explaining what is going on, and negotiations are underway with Thames Valley about a possible demonstration on the day itself. In the week before, stalls should be appearing in college lodges with information about the week's activities and petitions/ letters to MPs etc for people to sign. Despite David Blunkett's recent announcement on top-up fees, caution should still be exercised about the threat of differential charges. I am still collecting names for congregation, and will be writing to those who have submitted them soon to ask for more detailed information about the senior members concerned.

NUS: Presidential hustings were a huge success. So much so, in fact, that NUS committee has asked me to try and arrange them for other sabbatical candidates. I will endeavour to do this over the coming week. In terms of other dealings, they have tended to be with candidates seeking nomination. However, after council refused permission this term, I have declined all invitations to nominate candidates on behalf of Oxford University.

University relations: The Student Union continues (despite some would say fairly startling efforts to the contrary!) to enjoy excellent relations with the University. Since last council I have attended meetings of University Council as well as with the Proctors.

Press: More of my time than usual has been spent in press and media relations. In terms of the occupation, the University's refusal to issue press comment ensured that almost all of the coverage consisted in us putting our case, broadly unopposed. The ripples of the occupation continue to be felt in the number of press enquiries we receive about the issues surrounding student finance.

Entz; A great deal of work has been put in to preparations for Divinity. The night will feature sets from Stewart Rowell (Judge Jules support on 2000 tour), Def Ape and Sunday Roast and drinks prices at two for one between nine and ten. Anyone interested in buying or selling tickets should contact Rachel Logan @ New. Thanks here are due to Steph and Tom, both of whom undertake a great deal of work which has little to do with their portfolios. Steph in particular is to be thanked for reigning in my worst lunacies while still giving his all to the ambitious plans underway.

General: The usual work in terms of checking minutes/ writing letters/ dealing with enquiries etc etc etc.

Thank-you: Stuart for juggling press stuff with RO'dom in such an efficient and cheerful way. Sean- I feel I see more of you than I do of my flat-mate, thank-you for your interest in wider areas of OUSU's work. Regan and Alex, for epitomising all that's right with the free education campaign this year.

Sorry: Jane and Sonia, because if I was more paranoid I'd think that the University placed crunch-time for the non-payers during the same week as your really important events on purpose. Sorry if we interfered.

**Vice-President (Finance)
Steph Gray**

Mid-way through the year, much of my recent work has been planning for the future or reviewing the past (glories). To this end, I have brought forward and tried to enhance the recruitment process for Editors and Organisers of our summer publications and Freshers' Fair, as well as preparing for interviews for the Business Manager position. Together with the current BM, I went to Cambridge earlier in the week to meet with our CUSU counterparts to review the joint production of our Careers Handbook stable,

which has been highly successful this year. I've been putting the finishing touches to the Law Careers Handbook, which promises to be a truly useful resource for students seeking a legal career.

The OUSU Shop has taken up time recently in advance of today's AGM. Though its performance has been disappointing over the last 18 months, week-on-week sales figures show signs of improvement, and fairly major initiatives in the next few weeks should boost sales further.

I've also helped with the planning for Divinity - a one-night occupation of Jongleurs and Bar Risa - as well as reviewing committee and publications budgets in advance of the Amended Budget which will be coming to 7th Week Council.

Vice-President (Welfare)

Tony Lord

For the past two weeks I have been fairly busy working on two major issues: working with welfare officers on issues in colleges and advising individual students: living out continues to be a real worry for some students. I would remind members of Council about www.livingoutguide.com and that paper copies of the Living Out Guide are available from the OUSU office. I have also been attending _lots_ of University Cttees and other meetings: on just about every subject under the sun.

I have also begun to tidy up my office and re-organise my filing cabinet into some sort of order. Oooh exciting.

Vice-President (Women)

Jane Blumer

The past two weeks have been taken up with a number of things. The Reclaim the Night march was a huge success, with at least double the numbers of any in recent years. It does, however, leave the question of the responsibility of the police in helping to steward such marches - this is something OUSU needs to think carefully about over the next few months, particularly re OUSU's stance on the University Police. I've spent quite a lot of time trying to sort out the Eating Distress Support group, due to hold its first meeting on Thursday 5th April. Many thanks to all colleges who have donated money to the group. Plans for the Cabaret (Thursday 8th week) are coming along. I've done a fair amount of casework. Goldman Sachs have finally sent us the cheque for the nightbus, HURRAH! This means that I'll actually be able to sort out buying the bus next week. We've had a lot of people volunteering to be drivers, but we do still need navigators. If you know anyone who might be able to help, please ask them to get in touch with me. The NUS have solicited me for nominations for those standing for the position of Women's Officer. I haven't done so, however, for two reasons. Firstly, on a personal level, I don't think that an OUSU Sab should nominate on behalf of Oxford University because not everyone is a member. Secondly, and far more importantly, however, OUSU Council has not given me a mandate to nominate anyone on behalf of the whole University - were I to do such a thing, I would expect a motion of censure at least, and possibly no-confidence. I've begun work on the Women's Open Day to be held in 4th week next term. Finals' Forums have also begun with forums in Arch and Anth, English, Philosophy and French (others are still to be arranged).

Vice- President (Graduates)

Nick Smith,

Meetings attended:

University Council; Educational Policy and Standards Committee (together with a fortnightly briefing with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic); Tutors for Graduates Committee; Management Committee of the University Club; Committee for the Management of the Languages Centre; Student Health and Welfare Committee; Childcare Panel; Graduate Prospectus review board.

OUSU meetings: Exec; graduate divisional board reps.

EPSC

This meeting was dedicated to graduate issues and Dr Robin Ostle (former Chair of the General Board's Graduate Studies Committee) presented an oral report on postgraduate provision within the collegiate university. The report was welcomed by the committee and it was decided to organise discussion around three main propositions. An early report will go to 9th week University Council, and it is expected that the paper will be referred to the Conference of Colleges and the Divisions for initial comment, and that the graduate panel of EPSC, afforced by the report's author and the V-P Graduates as appropriate, will be given a watching brief for the further consideration and progress of the paper's proposals within the University.

Tutors for Graduates

Items on the agenda included University Graduate Studentships, transfers between colleges and graduate awards, and university and college provision for graduates. The Tutors for Graduates responded unanimously in favour of my request that the Committee make a representation against the proposed early closure of the Bodleian. In the light of their broader concerns about library provision in general they propose to invite the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Services and University Collections) and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Planning and Resource Allocation) to speak at the next meeting.

Institute for the Advancement of University Learning

I met with Dr Fiona Spensely, who is responsible for graduate teaching and learning at IAUL, to talk about graduate teaching opportunities and appropriate training. The imperative to provide such opportunities is being taken very seriously by the University and consultation between an EPSC panel and the Divisions and Colleges will begin soon.

Graduate Prospectus

I met with Ms Barbara Hott to discuss alternative structures for the subject / degree listings in the prospectus. It is hoped that a format that reflects the University's new divisional structure will prove to be more logical and digestible for applicants.

University Club

The revised areas of accommodation for the new Club were discussed and Maguire and Co have subsequently submitted revision 3 of the functional diagrams. They are available for view on the Club web site (along with the previous drafts):

http://users.ox.ac.uk/~univclub/Committee/newbuilding_pics/NewBuildingPlans.shtml#Maguire_Rev3

National Postgraduate Committee

I am hosting an ordinary general meeting of the NPC, of which OUSU is an affiliated member, at the University Club, 17th-18th February. 25 delegates are expected and the agenda includes discussion of the proposed NUS Postgraduate Committee, approval of the new NPC logo and corporate identity, and final discussion of the NPC strategy review. There are also policy workshops on EPSRC doctoral training accounts, the JISC review of plagiarism policy, and the British Academy review of graduate studies.

Vice-President (Access and Academic Affairs)

Rhodri Thomas

Target Schools

I have been extremely busy with Target Schools for the last two weeks. We are currently allocating places to schools for the Open Days and Regional Events. So far the first Open Day in Christ Church is nearly full and the second Open Day in New College looks like it will be oversubscribed. We are also nearing the quota for the Belfast event - we still need people from Northern Ireland to help! We are also having quite a lot of booking forms for the Leeds event despite a slow start.

The bulk of the work for the Visiting Scheme has been completed. All of the volunteers have been allocated schools and the letters are in p/p as we speak. Letters asking for volunteers should have gone out to all colleges - if you didn't get one can you please let me know.

I am also looking for good tutors who might be able to help with the open days and regional events. Again if you have any suggestions please get in touch.

Mentoring Scheme

I have spent a lot of time helping organise the National Mentoring Pilot Project. Most of the important work has been done and the first training event will be taking place in 6th Week. However, I am still looking for a small number of volunteers.

Library Campaign

The Library Campaign is still ongoing and I will be sending out a new letter to all JCR Presidents and Academic Affairs Reps sometime next week. I think that the campaign has been really successful. We are now waiting for PRAC (Planning Resource and Allocation Committee) to make its decisions about funding.

Admissions Working Party

My apologies for the delay in bringing the report to Council. I was due to have a meeting to finalise the section on ethnic minority students. However, due to the occupation this was not possible and I missed the deadline for motions. I will definitely be brought to 7th Week Council. On a positive note the Select Committee Report into Access adopted some of the proposals that had been made in the report that I produced for the Select Committee in the Summer Vacation. I am currently in the process of reading through the Select Committee. The paper copy has been delayed in the post!

JCR Academic Affairs Reps

I produced a new Campaign Resource Pack for JCR Academic Affairs Officers that has been distributed. Hopefully JCR Officers will find the pack useful. I am also planning on sending out the new tutorial feedback form publicity early next week.

Other stuff...

I helped Kirsty with the extremely successful occupation of the Divinity School that took up quite a lot of time. It was also very funny when people thought we were occupying because of Library Opening Hours. This is the third occupation in Oxford and I think that by far it was the largest, most successful and most fun. Big thanks to Kirsty, Will and Rachel.

I have dealt with academic casework and helped JCR Officers deal with casework in their own college. Thankfully, I'm not on Elections Committee!