



reports to 5th week council hilary 2005

Rebecca Wilkinson

V-P (Women)

I'm sorry if this report is shorter than usual, I write it in the midst of an OUSU election and a music marathon. And my computer has just crashed and only seems to have recovered half of it! Yay for technology.

The last two weeks have been dominated by "planning"

The Cabaret – Tuesday 10pm+ at Thirst – has been taking up a lot of time. We have a great run down of female acts ranging from singer song writers, to comedians to "in the pink". This should be a great event, and I hope you all come along to support a great cause – the Oxford Rape Crisis Centre. We are selling tickets in advance or on the door.

I would like to thank all the Women's officers who have agreed to sell tickets in their colleges and have put up the posters. I couldn't do it without your help.

Reclaim the Night march, will hopefully be going ahead on Monday of 7th Week, pending approval from the Police. Claire Chalmers has been a great help with this project. Fingers Crossed it doesn't rain!

Finals forums are proving a lot of work. This is divided between organising the events and answering the emails about the value of them As I write this I realise I have not replied to the letter in the Cherwell and have probably missed their print deadline. However, I don't think it is going against my socialist roots to say that at University level it has been comprehensively proved that women do disproportionately worse than men at the "finals" stage of their academic career and that the same has NOT been proved across the "class" divide.

I have had positive feed back about the Arch and Anth forum, and hope the others go as well.

I have been trying to coordinate registration to the NUS Women's Conference, but due to the decentralised nature of our affiliation it is proving a mission. As the close of registration is today [Friday] could any of you who know your college is sending a delegate please let me know after council. Thank you. Otherwise: Casework is on the increase [4th week blues?], OSSL business continues, last week at Park End was a great success and the attendance of the RAG Blind Daters kept us all entertained on the door [shame on you if you were one of the many who abandoned their date in favour of going home to write an essay!]

As ever Claire and Emma are a constant source of support and their dedication as exec officers is phenomenal, it is a pleasure to work with them.

**Linsey Cole
Affairs)**

V-P (Access & Academic

Sorry this report is so brief – election-day makes report writing difficult!

I've been ploughing onwards with lots of things over the past couple of weeks. As mandated at 3rd week Council, I've attended the Academic Strategy consultations and sought feedback from common rooms. The President and I will be writing a response, which we will bring to 7th week Council. I've also had University Committees all over the place – Senior Tutors Committee, Libraries Committee and EPSC, plus several pre-meetings and smaller committees. The main thing I have to report is that proposals for English Stint Reform were accepted by Senior Tutors Committee. The main basis of the proposal was two classes and 6 tutorials per term, which is an improvement on previous proposals, including those rejected in Michaelmas Term of this year. However, I will continue to monitor this across faculties and liaise with JCCs to ensure that there is greater student consultation in the process. It is concerning that again and again students

are not being consulted on this issue and this is something that must be improved.

Finalists are also now being consulted about the National Student Survey – a memo was sent to all finalists from the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) and myself explaining how to fill in the survey (if so desired..!), which also included a paragraph on how OUSU is encouraging people to opt-out, which I hope most people will do! I was also asked to write an article for the Oxford Magazine on the Survey, which is in the 4th week edition that accompanies the Gazette.

I had a really worthwhile meeting with Nicky and the Disabilities Office regarding lots of casework issues and will be doing more on this in the next few weeks. I've also been undertaking a study skills audit of the colleges and faculties in preparation for a paper that I would like to take to the University in 8th week – more about this at the next Council. Academic Affairs committee has been meeting in odd weeks this term – it needs two new co-chairs, so if you're interested, please email me on accesss@ousu.org

Access-wise, Target Schools has been inevitably taking up lots of time – the bookings for our events have been coming in and one of the open days in Trinity is already full! I've been working with the co-chairs and the exec officers to chase up bookings and work on logistics for our events in Northern Ireland. Plus, the other big project – THE TARGET SCHOOLS EASTER VISITING SCHEME – is now in motion....please, please think about doing a visit to a school or college in your home area during the Easter vac (or, if you're a finalists who is hanging around in Oxford, visit one of the schools here..) This is a real chance to give prospective students an insight into what it is really like to study here and as current students, we are best placed to do this honestly and effectively. See www.ousu.org/visitingscheme for more information - if anyone needs posters for colleges etc, again let me know.

I've also been liasing with the Equal Opportunities Exec Officers about the access and equal opportunities and hope to push this forward in the next few weeks. The Alternative Prospectus is also progressing, with plans to get it published by the beginning of next term. If you'd like to write something, email chris@alternativeprospectus.com The mentoring scheme at Oxford Community College is functioning well and there is a lot of scope to expand this to new schools, working in conjunction with Aim Higher.

Elections Committee duties have taken up much of my time in the past few days, including counting papers at 3am on Thursday morning and chairing husts. Thanks must go to Steve Harper and the rest of Elections Committee and Junior Tribunal for all their work over the past few weeks.

Apologies for being late for Council today – I have to attend a University Committee meeting and will endeavour to be at Council as soon as possible.

Back to election-ness...