

Reports to Council

5th Week Council Hilary Term 2014

Tom Rutland

President

Hi Council,

Sorry I can't be here tonight - please read my written report and get in touch at president@ousu.org with any questions.

#SaveStudentOpportunities Success

I am pleased to report that the campaign to save the Student Opportunities Fund by students across the country, coordinated by NUS and student unions, has had some success. It will no longer face an entire cut (£350m), but it has been 'merged' with the Access to Learning fund which helps those experiencing financial difficulty whilst at university - meaning a cut across the two of £37m.

Governance Reforms, Electoral Review Group

A lot of my time in the last fortnight, and indeed the term so far, has been spent working with the Internal Affairs Committee to produce a set of changes to our governing documents. These include changes to the Bye-Laws, the General Regulations and a new set of Referenda Regulations. These will be proposed by Nick Cooper and James Blythe, and they have my full support.

I've fed into meetings and discussions about the elections held last term and the proposals put forward by the Electoral Review Group.

Miscellaneous

I've met with two of my three part-time executive members to discuss engagement strategies for OUSU reps, as well as how we can better support clubs and societies. I've also attended the OUSU Reps meeting on Thursday last week, run by the Common Room Support Officer, Will Neaverson. I've advised on several rent negotiations, and also met with the Exeter JCR President to discuss how to defeat their catering charge. Finally, I've met with OUSU's NUS delegates to discuss the Zone Committee (i.e. Welfare, Higher Education, Society & Citizenship etc.) proposals for Conference.

Tom

Garlen Lo

VP (Graduates)

International Festival:

International Festival promotion via Facebook, common room mail lists, the University, the local media, and the Town Hall.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1436047713297084/?ref=5>

Mature Students' Campaign:

Mature Students' Campaign held their first committee resulting in action points for VP Grads to discuss with the University about.

<https://www.facebook.com/ousumaturestudents>

Oxford Graduate Scholarship Matched Fund:

Begun talks with the 20 students benefiting from the Oxford Graduate Scholarship Matched Fund in preparation for the 'good news story' campaign for a phase two of the Matched Fund.

http://www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/priorities/students/grad_matched_fund.html

Exeter College:

Drafted letter regarding the overworking of Exeter Junior Deans with the, then, Exeter MCR President who submitted it to Exeter Governing Body. The outcome was for the Rector and the Exeter MCR President to engage in private discussions about this.

<http://www.cherwell.org/news/topstories/2014/01/23/students-accuse-exeter-of-quotdiscriminatoryquot-hiring>

Charlotte Hendy

VP (Welfare and Equal Opportunities)

Suspended Status Students

Following a previous motion at OUSU Council, I've met lots of suspended status students, and have been producing a list of things that students should be allowed during their year out. I'm working on further resources for students who want to push for changes to their college policy, ahead of our information and equipping evening, which will take place on Tuesday of 7th week. If you'd like to find out more, please do get in touch! ☺

Race Summit and 100 Voices

Both myself and CRAE (the Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality) have been working with the University to plan its upcoming Race Summit in 8th week. Everything is looking really great and plans are being finalized. You can input into the day by coming to CRAE meetings, filling in the CRAE survey, or being interviewed for the 100 Voices report- email crae@ousu.org for more information.

Welfare Rep Forum

Last Monday I held a Welfare Rep Forum, in which we discussed how to make the most of peer supporters in college. We had a fruitful discussion about challenges and solutions, and it was nice to meet so many welfare reps. I'd love to meet your Welfare Rep- get them to email welfare@ousu.org ☺

A Few More Things:

- We partnered with the Turl Street Arts Festival to put on a **Bake Off** on Sunday of 5th week.
- Sarah and I are working on a **#SafeSex Campaign** next term, with some myth busting resources on our website, so look out for that!
- Along with the GUM Clinic, I've reviewed the pilot **C-Card condom distribution** scheme, and this will soon be rolled out to colleges.
- I've met with Mind Your Head and Students Against Depression to plan **Wellbeing Week** (3rd week Trinity) ☺

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

Rachel Pickering

VP (Access & Academic Affairs)

Hey Council ☺

Here are a few of the things I've been working on over the past couple of weeks.

Student Status and Access to facilities

Charlotte and I are holding our info evening on Tuesday of 7th week so watch this space for more details nearer the time. We've both been meeting with lots of people to build up resources for this evening - read more about this in Charlotte's email! And at the Academic Rep meeting I held last week we had a really good discussion about this.

Medieval and Modern Languages Review

Garlen and I have the wonderful job of getting to be student representatives on University departmental/faculty reviews. Last week I spent two days as part of the review panel for the Medieval and Modern Languages faculty. It was a really interesting experience and I've learnt lots! It did take me out of the office for two days though, so apologies if my response to emails has been a bit slower than normal!

Alternative Prospectus (AP)

The AP should, fingers crossed, by the time you read this be sent off! So we'll have it in print soon and I'll make sure to bring a copy to Council as soon as we have it in!

Student Led Teaching Awards (SLTA)

I've been busy honing my wordpress skills, and now our SLTA website is up and running and nominations are open! I've slightly changed the awards from the two previous years, changing one of the categories and introducing a new one. You can now nominate tutors, lecturers, supervisors and members of support staff for 'Most Acclaimed Lecturer', 'Outstanding Tutor' and 'Best Support Staff'. Check out the website for more details (<http://teachingawards.ousu.org>) and do get nominating!

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)
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Evening all!

6 down, 6 to go. We are now over half way through this academic year and I'm already feeling nostalgic. It's been a really busy few weeks for me and I'll set out some of the most interesting things I've been working on below.

OH! - don't forget that you can still buy good quality, reduced price, bike locks from OUSU for only £15. Hundreds of students have done so already, join them!

Living Wage

After the brief distraction of the good news at Mansfield College last week the campaign is back to focusing on the central university and lobbying them to pay a Living Wage. In 7th Week the University's Personnel Committee will be discussing a paper on the Living Wage, and I am working with the Living Wage Campaign to seek to apply pressure to the members of the committee, meeting one-to-one and planning a public action. Watch this space.

In 3rd week I presented for 10 minutes on the Living Wage to all of the departmental facilities managers, feedback was good and I hope it will mean even more departments decide to pay a Living Wage, let's wait and see.

Community

I've expanded, and slightly restructured, OUSU's Community Warden scheme, now with 10 Wardens rather than the previous 8. This scheme is 2 years old next term and it still has loads of potential, which is exciting!

I attended the formation of the Oxford Tenants' Union last week, it was an inspiring meeting and I look forward to working with the Union over the remaining 4 months that I am VP C&C.

RAG

Jailbreak has now raised a record £40,000. RAG's Blind Date matched around 350 students to one another, raising over £1,250 for RAG's charities. We also bought almost 700 roses at cost price and distributed them to students' pidges across the University which should raise around £1,000, thanks to college RAG Reps for this! Oh, and I have recruited a brand new committee for the 2014 OUSU RAG Ball, all 17 of them!

This week is RAG Week, and there are events happening almost every day to raise money for our charities as well as inform students about the good work that they do - check out our Facebook page for details - /oxfordrag

Also, next week it is a big week in the RAG world, we will be electing our new committee for the next year as well as selecting our new charities in the cross-campus ballot on Wednesday and Thursday of 6th week.

Environment and Ethics

As I write this the Fossil Fuel Divestment part of the E&E campaign is preparing for a public action on Radcliffe Square, hopefully it will be successful in raising awareness of the campaign, I know that all of the members of the SRIRC Committee know it's happening because they've all (including me) been emailed about it by the University!

I attended a meeting of the University's sustainability steering group (SSG) - and found out that Oxford students are very green when it comes to our travels, over 90% of us walk or cycle, beaten only by Cambridge. On the SSG I gave forewarning that at the next meeting I, and the Head of Environmental Sustainability, will be presenting draft Fairtrade policy for their consideration - better get writing that!

Sarah Pine	VP (Women)
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Evening Council,

It Happens Here and Sexual violence

- Last week was Anti-Violence Valentine's Week. We held talks, a consent workshop, a film and card making with WomCam. I had the great experience of having exactly the same amount of people as chairs at the Women Against Rape talk; living #thedream.
- I've been organising an information evening on consent workshops with the badass graduate women's officer Eden Tanner, and super cool women's campaign officer, Lucy Delaney. This will advise student on how to lobby for them in their communities, as well as give a chance to answer any questions about the sessions.
- We've distributed ribbons for people to wear, as a mark of campaigning to end violence against women. A couple of us ribboned the radcam too, which was pretty.
- Updated the website a lot with the current projects that IHH is pursuing. I've got a bit obsessed with the statistics of how many views we get. (Anti-violence valentine's week has given our highest amount of page views since we launched last May)
- wrote a new consent workshop for students who actively choose to come to it; it's more challenging and difficult so isn't one for freshers' weeks. However, it is really rewarding and was really fun to facilitate.
- done more zine distribution!
- Continued to work with colleges to increase their access to Sexual Assault Referral centres. Worked with staff from the local Solace Centre to increase accessibility from their end.
- Had the first policy group consultation. A couple of campaign ideas have come from it, which we'll be working on for the rest of the term

Women's Leadership Development Programme

- It's still going, it's still great. I'm doing lots of admin to support it. Woo!

Women in Academia

- Helped support students at Queens, Exeter and Wadham organise Finals Forums for their communities. The gender gap at finals is significant, so this will hopefully help close it.
- Raising the profile of women in academia through taking part in a panel to discuss diversity in education. I'll be discussing the role of women within the cannon of academia, and how they've traditionally been excluded.

Student Parents

- Wrote the proposal on hardship funding to go to the university hardship steering group. This can aid student's access to the (currently undersubscribed) hardship fund by up to £3000/year.

- Wrote an article of the alternative prospectus about student parents, to increase access for students with children. Students who are parents rarely access higher education, so this is really crucial. This is also a highly gendered issue.
- Consulted with student parents and the executive committee about more formal representation for student parents. Watch this space to see how it works out!

Women's Officers and Gender Reps

- Met with current and incoming women's officers and gender reps to highlight current OUSU projects and ways that they can pursue them
- Working with students in common rooms to support and empower their women's officers more
- Worked with Camille, the St Anne's women's officer to put together consent-focused events in her common room. This includes running at the queer consent workshop for their LGBTQ week!
- worked with the Balliol women's officer to put together a workshop on gender stereotypes for their welfare week.

FemJam!

- went to FemJam with Oxford Students, it was great, I learned loads. It was really helpful for me in my role here because I learnt a lot from other students about campaigns they are running. Additionally, I learned how to make events more intersectional (which is really important in such a privileged place like Oxford University) and made links with groups that WomCam are interested in hosting.

Sexual health

- Met with student group Sexpression, who provide consent-positive sex ed to local students. Together we're creating some sex ed resources for students. Lack of compulsory sex ed in the UK, combined with students with diverse background mean that some students aren't as informed as they could be. As a student union, we're working to fill students gaps in knowledge in ways that they can and will access
- Worked with Charlotte to find resources for the project!
- Providing more feedback to the local NHS services about their C Card scheme.

WomCam

- ran an It Happens Here card-making session with WomCam. About 50 people came, which was amazing!
- Have been co-ordinating the NUS Women's Conference delegates with WomCam. The NUS liberation conferences provide invaluable resources and support to campaigns, so this has been really rewarding.

Other stuff:

went to women's JCR presidents drinks and it was great, read lots of governance documents, worked a lot with the student press to inform students about sexual violence support services, went to the St Anthony's feminist reading group, had a great time at Corporel (the Corpus-Oriel feminist group), supported women's networking by going to a college Inspirational Women's Dinner.

Loads of love,

Sarah

PART TIME OFFICERS

Eden Tanner	Graduate Women's Officer
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In the past two weeks, I have been focusing on Compulsory Consent Workshops, Couples and Families Accommodation, in addition to being an active committee member and participant in the Women's Campaign in the organisation of a trans*awareness event in conjunction with LGBTQsoc.

In conjunction with Sarah Pine, Lucy Delaney and It Happens Here, I have been organising a Consent Workshop Information Session (to be held next week), to enable people to raise the motion within their own common room and offer support to the interested parties.

I have drafted the questions and email to be sent around to Colleges, and this will be distributed over the following two weeks.

We have continued to hold meetings to discuss our campaign priorities: making rustication processes more transparent and drawing up a list of 'basic requirements' that we would like to see, exploring the possibility of having equalities lawyers examining college rustication processes. We have also discussed the possibility of specific disability training for welfare training. I've been meeting individual students at colleges to discuss how they can get involved in the campaign, and we are producing a questionnaire for CRs to acquire information about how we can implement all of the above.

My next steps will be to produce concrete policy proposals on mental health rustication processes, disability training for welfare reps, physical accessibility for extra-curricular events. Once these are produced by the campaign group, we can distribute resources among colleges.

Hey Council! It's been an exciting couple of weeks for your Clubs and Socs Officer, attempting to attend the termly Clubs Committee on Thursday of 4th I was greeted by security who told me that the University Offices were evacuated due to the bomb scare! Protocols that this was **Clubs Committee** and therefore unmissable were to no avail, however you should look forward to my next report in which I hopefully bring you news of from the rescheduled committee meeting. Also in 4th Week I met with Tom Rutland and we had a clear out of the Clubs and Societies pidge, filing all the new and renewed registrations so the house is now in order. The Clubs and Societies Registration workshop is due for 7th Week though the actual date has yet to be formalised, just keep the whole week free!

Over the past two weeks I've had the pleasure of meeting many common room presidents. I've been discussing with them what their major concerns in their colleges are and seeing what the general, cross-college issues are. I look forward to working more with them in the future.

I also hosted yesterday the first OUSU reps meeting of term. I'll be running another one before the end of term, too, so if you missed out you'll be able to come find out more then!

If you are an OUSU rep and you'd like to find out more, I'm always open to meeting one-on-one to discuss issues from your common room or to tell you more about OUSU. Also, if you're not yet on the mailing list, please email me on commonrooms@ousu.org.

This week I have thought about how I can turn ideas into actions. Therefore, I have researched and liaised with other OUSU council members into how I can realistically achieve my goals I had set out at the start. Below are a few details of my plans for the upcoming weeks ahead:

- 1) Design and produce a leaflet detailing health services available to students -> to raise awareness of health services. This is in response to a student healthwatch survey from Charlotte (VP graduates). Plans for this have been discussed with both Welfare and Graduates VPs
- 2) Plans to raise awareness of mental health issues among international students at the ISC festival. This can be via leaflets and talking with students.
- 3) I am hoping to make contact with all the international student societies that are part of Oxford University. This is to create a link between these societies (therefore the students they represent) and OUSU.
- 4) Continue to liaise with the graduate induction working group at the central university.

Thank you.

Jamie Wells

Health and Welfare Officer

The last couple of weeks have seen me getting in touch with college welfare officers, including at the latest welfare rep forum in which we discussed ways in which colleges might be able to better use and advertise their peer supporters, to make the most of their training. We've also held the first meeting of the Trinity Term Well-Being Week planning group. There are some great ideas and it sounds like its going to be a really fun and informative week. Looking ahead, Well-Being week planning will continue, as will contact with college welfare officers to help everyone make the most of the collegiate system for welfare purposes, including circulating details of welfare related services in oxford available to students.

Sophie Terrett

Rent and Accommodation Officer

Hello, council!

We had the first open meeting of the Oxford Tenants' Union on Tuesday; the turnout was great, with students from a mix of colleges sharing their experiences with residents and representatives from the council. Our next move is to develop working groups to target specific issues, such as relations with landlords and letting agencies. I've started working with the Grad VP for women on compiling a database of couples and family accommodation across colleges, and started to research updating the Living Out guide.

Best wishes,

Sophie

Emily Silcock

Community Outreach and Charities Officer

Hello council,

We've had some exciting developments over the last couple of week and we're now pretty much in a place where we're looking at setting up a student campaign on the issues surrounding homelessness. (Very excitingly have a new email address to go with this homeless@ousu.org.) I've spent time writing up a report of all the ideas suggested by the different charities I've been talking to about things that this campaign could do and I'll be emailing out in the next couple of days (or getting Dan to do this) to source some interested people. If people fancy circulating this around their Common Rooms that would be amazing.

Also, Jailbreak was a massive success which I take absolutely no credit for, apart from personally making it to Austria.

Have a lovely week

Emily xx

Dan Templeton

LGTBQ Officer

I have arranged publicity for LGBT History Month and also dispersed other LGBTQ materials from organisations such as the NUS LGBT Campaign to colleges. I also chaired the first successful LGBTQ Campaign meeting and have ensured that the Oxford University LGBTQ Society will now publicise them. In addition to this, I have been helping a new LGBTQ publication, 'No Heterox', to secure funding and also attended a meeting discussing publicity for this and possible content. I hope to bring a motion to the next OUSU Council regarding possible funding of the publication from the Discretionary Campaigns Budget. I have also continued contact with the organisers of Oxford Pride and have an organising meeting coming up soon. Finally, I have begun looking into arrangements for representation of Oxford University at the NUS LGBT Conference.