

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

5th Week Council Hilary Term 2017

Jack	Hampton	President	Received
Sandy	Downs	VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities	Received
Orla	White	VP Women	Received
Marina	Lambrakis	VP Graduates	Received
Eden	Bailey	VP Access & Academic Affairs	Received
Beth	Currie	VP Charities & Community	Received

SABBATICAL OFFICERS

Jack Hampton – President

Dear council,

In the last two weeks, I have been focused on two main themes: my work as the chair of trustees and elections.

As chair of trustees I am responsible for furnishing the trustee board with regular updates and well-structured papers allowing for positive and forward looking discussions on matters of strategy, finance and operations. In the last two weeks, I have been planning, delegating out and checking up on the various papers and reports due at our next trustee board pulling these ideas together into a set of papers appropriate for our own board and the university committee JSCECSM (joint subcommittee of education committee with student members – position open and unelected in council this week so run for it!) that oversees the students' union.

On the election side this has involved a lot of 'getting the vote out', talking to candidates, and fielding questions and problems as they arose as a member of elections committee. It has also crucially involved enjoying the elections results night and being a part of an effort, which increased our turn out by 1312 votes!

In my verbal report, I will be giving an update on the following:

The home offices response to the letter I wrote on behalf of council re. Orgreave

Our work to increase the number of people running for voluntary positions in council with a particular focus on scrutiny

The Student Unions' response to and work on the closure of the Tinbergen Building

Eden Bailey – Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs)

Hi Council!

It's been a super busy fortnight (for a change...) with some really exciting stuff happening in the world of access and academic affairs at OUSU! As well as representing students and prospective students on the Student Attainment Gap Working Group and Admissions Committee, I've been working with lots of student reps and campaigners. I arranged for the JCR access reps to meet with the Head of Communications for Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach and discuss how info online for prospective students could be improved, and what reps can be doing digitally in their own colleges. At the first meeting of JCR academic reps this term we discussed what could be better done to support people in this role, and established that there wasn't very clear guidance, including in JCR constitutions, about these roles and this is something as a group of reps we hope to begin work on improving! I've also had some positive meetings with SusCam, and also with Senior Tutors and the Student Advice Service here about moving forward on information provided to students about suspension.

Two really big things this week have been the BAME Access and Admissions Focus Group that I ran for BAME students to have their voices heard by the Equality and Diversity Unit and the Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach office, and a meeting of students to scope out ideas for a campaign to support working class students. Both were a really powerful session, and I am hopeful that this is just the beginning of something much bigger. If you identify as BAME and want to get involved in this conversation and pushing work by the University going forward and I haven't already emailed you about this via the Facebook event, please let me know and I'll add you to my list of people to be in touch with. Similarly, if you're interested in supporting a campaign for working class students and I haven't already had contact with you, please let me know!

One other thing to flag - in seventh week I'll be on the panel reviewing the Law Faculty - if you are a student there with any thoughts about things that we should

know/things that should be considered in the review, please get in touch (this can be entirely confidentially and anonymously).

As always, you can email me (vpaccaff@ousu.ox.ac.uk) and I'll reply as soon as possible, or tweet me @OUSU_AcAff J

Sending fifth week waves of support,

Eden

Beth Currie - Vice-President (Charities & Community)

Hey Council,

If you're interested in running a campaign/being on the OUSU executive board then get in touch because I am looking for someone to chair our Environment Campaign (to oversee the Climate Justice and Food Justice campaigns, the Edible Planting group, and VegSoc) and Community Campaign (to oversee OUSU's homelessness campaign On Your Doorstep and the Living Wage Campaign) - so if you're interested in either role to have questions about them, please do get in touch!

I've been working with the City Council on voter registration. In 3rd week 50 voter registration packs went out to common rooms. If you haven't registered to vote since the beginning of the academic year, then make sure you sign up here - <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>. It takes less than five minutes and if you want to vote in the County Council elections on the 4th May (very important!!) then you need to be registered by 13th April.

Marina and I held our focus group for employed graduates (whether in teaching, junior deanship, or other jobs, internal and external to the university) on Monday of 5th week. We are now planning on how to best deliver helpful resources for graduates in our remaining months in office and also expand the scope of what we do on employment for the next sabb team.

We had elections and they were very successful! We even broke the record number of votes in the RAG charity ballot! In the academic year 2017/8 RAG will be supporting OSARCC (Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre), Oxford Homeless Pathways, the Against Malaria Foundation and Education Partnerships Africa. There is loads more fun stuff going on with RAG - if you want to support the charities then maybe by a ticket for VarCity, or sign up for Blind Date or buy a ticket for the first ever RAG Fashion Show (only £30!! Cracking value!!) If you want to get involved with helping run some of the amazing things that RAG does, then get involved with their committee elections of Wednesday of 6th week! The FB event for recruitment drinks and elections is here - <https://www.facebook.com/events/379684472404861/>. All executive positions and general committee positions are open to any student, regardless of previous experience, so come along and get involved with the most fun society in Oxford.

Stay cool,

Beth

Marina Lambrakis - Vice-President (Graduates)

Happy 5th week Council!

The last couple of weeks have been super busy for me, with lots of major committees and working groups happening. Here are some headlines for you of things I have been working on and my priorities coming up:

Graduates as employees

Beth and I held a focus group on Monday to tease out what the key issues are affecting grads who work, which was incredibly productive and has given us a lot of momentum to take this project forward. Alongside that, I've been in communication

with students from specific departments who want to lobby their departments on teaching opportunities, so that they can come up with a unified plan for how to proceed.

Related to this area of work, nominations for the Teaching Awards are now OPEN! And this year we have a new award on the table, for best postgraduate teacher. This can be any graduate student who teaches in some capacity, be it tutorials, seminars, lectures, lab demonstrations, or supervising. I'm very much looking forward to reading all your nominations!

Graduate accommodation

I've been in conversations over the last couple of weeks about this, both with Residential Accommodation (who handle the University's stock of housing), with Common Room Presidents preparing for rent negotiations, and in various committee settings, where we've been pushing quite hard to make sure that students who live in graduate accommodation are properly looked after. I can't tell you a huge amount about some of this work, as it's still early stages and confidential, but rest assured that we are fighting your corner (and following the principles set out in the Graduate Vision about this - if you haven't read that document, just google 'OUSU Graduate Vision').

Graduate suspension and welfare

The final area I've been focusing on a fair bit is graduate welfare and suspension. Monday saw the first meeting of a new working group on graduate suspension, to revise the current policies, recommend best practice, and generally make the process clearer to those suspending. I'm optimistic that we'll be able to make considerable headway in this area over the next few months, and I've also pushed for some focused consultation with grads who are currently or have previously suspended, so look out for that. (If you have anything you want to contribute, drop me a line!) My focus for Trinity term will be on this area of graduate welfare, so keep an eye out for more coming on that!

Academic affairs

Lastly, there are a few bits and bobs I've been doing that trundle along under the broad heading 'Academic Affairs'. The first is that tomorrow (Thursday) I'm running a Postgrad Exam Preparation Session at the Exam Schools, 5-6pm. Come along to ask questions and hear tips on revision and what the exam process is like!

I wrote a couple of papers for committees on Quality Assurance in the colleges and our role in that, as well as Nick's PGT review from last year (which I presented to Graduate Committee of Conference of Colleges yesterday). The PGR survey is still live - link here: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PG_R

The very last thing I want to say is that Jack and I as a crack team are taking developments with the Tinbergen building very seriously. We're going to be doing a lot on this, and coordinating the student response so that it can be as powerful and effective as possible. We'll be holding an open meeting for course reps from those departments affected, to put together a lobbying strategy to the University. Come along if you can, or feed back your thoughts by emailing me!

As always, you can get in touch on vpgraduates@ousu.ox.ac.uk - I'll do my very best to get back to you as fast as humanly possible!

Sandy Downs - Vice-President (Welfare & Equal Opportunities)

Hi everyone!

My biggest committee was last week, the Student Wellbeing committee. It was mostly just annual reports this time, although there was also some discussion about student welfare when studying abroad which I'm hoping to report developments on soon!

There's been lots of BME work this week, including the Race Equality Working Group and an exciting new college-led sub group on BME mental health and welfare. The colleges want to facilitate and aid lots of the work going on at University and student level, which is fab. This is all part of the Race Charter which is being pulled together at the moment.

There's also some fun new plans about helping Peers of Colour to expand, stemming from the amazing feedback we're getting about Rainbow Peers and Peers of Colour. Well done to all involved <3

The biggest plans coming up include the University Mental Health Day on March 2nd. We're working with the University student welfare services and Student Minds, along with MYH and OSDC to create an amazing day for you all. Posters and more news coming soon. Spoiler alert: there will be dogs.

The other big ongoing plan is a new project which I'm starting with Good Night Out and other interested parties about crew dates, initiations, and bops, especially around freshers week. This is hopefully going to culminate in some exciting plans for entz reps, which will all be revealed next council (fingers crossed!).

We're still boycotting the NSS. Don't do it. Do something else instead. Anything else. Look out for our super quiche posters about continuing not to do it.

Lastly, thanks to everyone who came to results night last Thursday, and massive congratulations to all elected. Special well done to Farheen, who I have every faith will be an incredible upgrade in my role next year and am so so excited to see the inspiring work she does <3 Commiserations to Josh, who remains one of the most committed and wonderful activists in Oxford <3

Thanks! Sandy

Orla White - Vice-President (Women)

Hello Council! The past few weeks have been pretty hectic, what with elections and everything. Congratulations to all the candidates, especially those who ran for VP Women - Katy Haigh and Catherine Kelly. Both of them are excellent, and I'm extremely excited to work with Katy during handover.

I also smashed a manifesto pledge during elections! I promised to address the way we vote for women's roles, and some of you will have noticed that people can now alter their gender in their voting profiles. No more awkward emails to the DSO. Hurray!

Here's what I've been up to besides elections (hint: elections took a lot of my attention).

- First Respondent training! I've been rolling this out more, as well as training more people to deliver it. I'm considering trying to allocate Friday afternoons for training sessions and creating a proper calendar of them for next term, which will require some serious support from common rooms, but might well help in the long run.
- I've had a preliminary meeting with the Interim Director of Student Wellbeing and Support Services, Rachel Meyrick, and attended the first meeting of the University Sexual Violence Working Group. I'm really hoping to be able to make some headway towards a centralised, accountable and supportive system of dealing with cases of sexual violence.
- I sat on committees about Student Wellbeing and the Student Attainment Gap (both in terms of the gender gap and the race gap) in order to represent student voices to the University.
- We're re-running WomCam elections on the coming Monday; one of the four motions I'm putting forward this Council is the revised WomCam constitution, which makes some big changes to the committee structure.

- I've been preparing, with WomCam and Irish students, to support Strike4Repeal on International Women's Day - that's the subject of another motion.
- I've been working on getting the English Collective of Prostitutes to run some training for staff, and can confirm that they'll be in Oxford on the 24th February.