

5th week michaelmas 2006

Alan Strickland

President

**Ed Mayne
(Finance)**

V-P

Vice-President (Finance) Student Council Report 5th Week

Another fortnight of tying up loose ends! Apologies for my absence from the last Student Council – I was delivering the Oxford and Cambridge Careers Handbook. Here is a rundown of what I've been doing. I'll present a report on the financial status of OUSU to the final Student Council of this term when it is clear what the situation is in terms of revenue from invoicing.

FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Under the guidance of the OUSU President, the new Finance Committee met for the first time in the last fortnight. Consisting of the OUSU Accountant, the OUSU General Manager, the President, the Business Manager and myself, we hope this will be the start of a new era of co-ordination and long term planning with regard to OUSU's finances.

DEBT COLLECTION

Putting the OUSU General Manager and the OUSU Accountant in charge of invoicing has been incredibly successful. They are focusing on debtors from 04/05 and 05/06, as well as new 06/07 debtors. Debtors remaining from the pre-04/05 era are not being chased at the moment due to time constraints. The Business Manager and I will soon decide whether these remaining pre-04/05 debtors are worth chasing.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE CAREERS HANDBOOK

This has now been pidgeed to all affiliated full colleges except Exeter College, it should be pidgeed to Exeter tomorrow. Thanks to everyone who helped pidge the guide. We will decide what to do with the left over guides in the coming weeks.

OUSU DISCOUNT BOOKLET

This went out with the Oxford Student last week. Now that the Careers Handbook and Discount Booklet are out, invoicing has begun on both of them.

OXFORD HANDBOOK

Last weekend I pidgeed this guide to lots of colleges who didn't get one on the first day of the freshers' fair. However there are many still to go. I'm working on this.

ZOO

Park End on Wednesday and Zoo Na Na on Thursday are continuing to draw large crowds. Despite filling Ocean and Collins on Tuesday of 4th week for a Halloween bop, the event this week was less successful. We are fully aware that a lot more attention is

needed on this night to ensure that it lives up to it's full potential. We are in the process of renegotiating our relationship with Filth. I'll report back on this when the deal has been concluded. I can say however that it looks like our relationship with Filth will continue, focused on our Legends concept which currently occupies Thursday night in the Studio night club's schedule.

NUS DEMOCRACY CARDS

OUSU now has 10,000 of these and I'll be talking with NUS reps about getting them out very soon. I also have some publicity to distribute at Council.

Finally, I went to a delightful JCR meeting at Blackfriars Hall last week. After several years of disaffiliation Blackfriars Hall JCR has chosen to reaffiliate to OUSU this year. I very much look forward to a new era of friendship between OUSU and Blackfriars Hall. Thank you very much to the Blackfriars JCR President, his predecessor and all members of the JCR for their warmth, kindness and hospitality.

Also, thanks to Glyn and his mate Archie who helped me deliver the Oxford Handbook last weekend. Glyn...even though I seem to spend every Sunday delivering something OUSU related in your van, I can't say that I don't find the banter entertaining!

Jamie Frew V-P (Opportunities)	(Welfare and Equal)
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Jenny Hoogewerf-McComb (Women)	V-P
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Andrea Miller (Graduates)	V-P
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Helen Bagshaw (Academic Affairs)	V-P (Access &
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VP (Access and Academic Affairs) – Report to 5th Week Council Michaelmas Term
A quick sum-up of my last two weeks:

Admission: Impossible – National Demo

The Sunday after the last Council saw a number of us from Oxford pile into a bus and head to the Admission: Impossible Demo in London. This was my first demo, so thank you to all of those that attended and made the experience so much fun; all throughout the march our little section made lots of noise trying to get our message across!

Senior Tutors Committee

A few important things came up here, such as the status of students on rustication and the resit policy of the colleges. These are going to be discussed further at the next Senior Tutors' Meeting, which is really encouraging as these are issues that affect many of the students that we see as Student Advice Service members.

EPSC and the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education)

Last Friday was EPSC, and on the Thursday, another pre-meeting with Elizabeth Fallaize, the Pro-VC (Education). Amongst the major issues were the Burgess Report, Bologna Process and an overview of University support for examinations and assessment, that latter of which has led to a meeting being organised with Anne Grocock, who is undertaking the report, and Sue Bennett the Head of Student Administration. Some really good work is being done to try and improve the experience of both students and examiners, so more on this following my meeting.

University Council

A very brief meeting this week; Council was keen to get through the very short unreserved agenda so we could be kicked out and discussion of the amendments moved to the governance proposal could begin.

Target Schools Meeting

A very positive meeting with my Target Schools co-chairs on Monday resulted in us doing some research into where our Regional Conferences should be. We always visit Northern Ireland, but the fourth Conference moves around the UK to areas untargeted by other access work. This year we're looking into doing a full day conference in Edinburgh, and then a half day higher up into Scotland as there seems to be very little access work done there. If anyone has any comments on this and whether it would be a good idea, do let me know.

Language Centre Committee

Yet another of the committees that both Andrea and I sit on. The meeting was held in the newly refurbished Language Laboratory, which is an excellent resource for the students making use of the Language Centre. The number of students benefiting from the availability of foreign language classes is increasing, especially with the introduction of language modules in a number of science and humanities subjects; so far this seems a very positive and welcomed addition to the syllabus and the Language Centre staff feel all students should have access to language classes though at the moment numbers are limited due to funding and rooms. Watch this space.

Library Services Meeting and Stacks Tour!

Yesterday, Andrea and I had a very productive meeting with the Deputy Director of the Library Services and the Deputy Head of Reader Services. The discussion centred mostly around opening hours of the OULS libraries and a standardisation of fines and tariffs across these libraries, but moved onto a general talk on student views of libraries. With the RI Humanities Library currently being planned, it is essential that we communicate what students want from their libraries, so we'll be doing some research into patterns of usage behaviour in order to take a paper to the Curators of University Libraries some time next term. It has been suggested that we make this a paper outlining the student vision for the

future of OULS, so we'll be surveying students in the near future as an update to the survey carried out 2 years ago.

After our discussion, we were taken down into the stacks to look at the conveyor belt system that transports books from the New Bodleian to the Old Bod and the Rad Cam, even getting to walk right through the passage under Broad St to come up in the centre of the Rad Cam Lower Reading Room! We were also given a tour of the Old Bod Reading Rooms, which was great for an ex-scientist who never used them! Maybe it makes us geeks but I think it might have made both of our weeks...

**Imran Khan
Community)**

V-P (Charities and

Dear Council,

It's been another busy couple of weeks. Here's a quick summary of what I've been up to:

RAG:

The Bungee Jump was a big success, raising over £1000 in a single day. Money's also been coming in from Eclectic, Speed Dating, Poetry Slams, bounce-a-thons, Poppy Appeal raids, Wear-it-Pink Halls, Pub crawls, etc.

Coming up we've got film nights, rhythms of dance, battle of the bands, Wear it Pink cocktails & a capella, charity haircuts, and much more! The RAG reps handbook has also been distributed, so hopefully we'll be seeing more college events soon. We've already planned a 'Blind Date' event between LMH and Univ.

Community:

Lots of people still coming on board with various projects. This week we had a talk from Marie Wright, organiser of the OxDox Film Festival which is coming to us next term, and we've already had a lot of interest from people looking to volunteer for that.

Later in term, we'll have pushes to get volunteers for Science Oxford's Science and Engineering Ambassadors scheme, and the Oxford Children's Hospital Campaign.

The new community committee has also been active in hitting the streets looking for ever-more ways for students to get involved in the local community.

Environment and Ethics:

The OUSU Executive approved the merger of Environment and Ethics committees into the new Environment and Ethics committee, and the new co-chairs are really on the ball. They're currently working on a new logo for the committee. On more

important aspects, they're trying to create a 'best practice' document for college bursars with regards to recycling and energy efficiency, and co-ordinate a national contraction and convergence campaign, amongst other things.

Alternative Careers Fair:

The new Future Outlook committee is up and running and already starting to try and attract some really exciting speakers. I'll update Council once we have some more confirmed names and have started working on the handbook.