

# OUSU

## reports to council

5th week michaelmas term 2010

**David Barclay**

**President**

Council,

The last two weeks have been extremely busy in the life of OUSU. Here are some of the things I've been doing as your President.

### **HE Funding**

- I attended the Vince Cable Protest.
- I attended an emergency University Council discussing the implications of the Browne Review and the CSR.
- I went to London to meet Nick Clegg and discuss the Government's proposals. I also spoke with Vince Cable and Wendy Piatt.
- I spoke to multiple media outlets about HE funding (the back of my head is now famous).
- I inspired a lead story on the BBC news website's education section on the impact of the Government's proposals on Muslim students.
- I organised the first meeting of the OUSU HE Funding Campaigns committee.
- I attended two OEC meetings.
- I went organised 2 flyer sessions about the National Demo.
- I helped to organise stalls in Colleges promoting the National Demo.
- I met with the NUS President Aaron Porter to discuss HE Funding.

### **Common Room Support**

- I gave a briefing on the Government's proposals for HE funding to JCR Prescom.
- I designed and circulated a briefing document on the Government's proposals for HE funding.
- I continued to meet with JCR Presidents one-on-one to support them in performing their roles.

### **OUSU Internal**

- I designed and helped run the interviews for the position of Chief Executive.
- I continued the search for External trustees
- I met with the Director of University Finance to discuss the OUSU budgeting process.

**Katharine Terrell**  
**(Women)**

**V-P**

This fortnight I have:

- Met the new WomCam committee and helped to plan the terms ahead.
- Held a Women's Officers meeting to facilitate the sharing of ideas/best practise
- Met individual women's officers.
- Held a very successful women's husting and public speaking training event, jointly with the women's initiative at the union (as part of Gender Equality Festival)
- Worked on casework for the student advice service.
- Invited college welfare staff to a harassment training day, with good response.
- Worked with the OLI on ironing out small problems with Springboard for Undergraduates.
- Written an article on positive discrimination for the 'gender equality' issue of the OxStu.
- Attended St John's JCR/MCR women's lunch to speak about OUSU and the national demo.

- Attended meetings of the Gender Equality Scheme Steering Group, Oxford Education Campaign, Campaigns Committee, OSSL board, and Proctors.
- Started planning women's open days with Alex.
- Getting National Demo signups – see you there!

**Beth Evans**  
**(Graduates)**

**V-P**

Committee Meetings:

- OUSU Executive Committee
- HE Campaigns Committee
- Education Committee
- Gender Equality Steering Group
- Emergency University Council
- Graduate Prospectus Advisory Group

MCR visits:

- Trinity

Meetings with **MCR Presidents & Divisional Board Reps.**

- **Oxford Education Campaign** Meeting at Hertford, 1/11
- **Oxford Education Campaign** protest against Vince Cable's (cancelled) visit, supported by OUSU, 28/10

**Graduate Welfare** event with cake and tea (thanks, Dai!) A chance for MCR welfare reps to share concerns and ideas.

Visit to the new **OxHub** building to determine how OUSU can best work with them on projects.

Meeting with **Student Information** to discuss putting on events for Mature Students – particularly an event at the end of MT this year followed by a more welfare focused event at the beginning of next term.

Termly meeting with the **Proctors** to discuss disciplinary matters.

Casework for the **Student Advice Service** has taken up quite a lot of time this week.

As part of my role with **NUS LGBT Campaign** I will be running workshops for students in London on 5/11.

**Tom Perry**  
**Opportunities)**

**V-P (Welfare & Equal**

These past few weeks have been dominated by the HE Funding cuts and the proposal put forward last week. As well as that (and casework) I've spent the past couple of weeks doing...

- I held the first Equal Opportunity Committee meeting (for Common Room EO Officers) where Beth gave a short talk on Trans students
- Attended the MCR Welfare Meeting held by David Bowe where we discussed Welfare issues affecting Graduate students
- Met with the Peer Support Organisers at the Counselling Service on several points, including Chinese Nightline and Peer Support for LGBTQ officers
- Met with a further 6 Welfare/Equal Opportunities Officers, bringing the total to 21
- Met with the entire team of staff at the Counselling Service to talk about the Student Advice Service
- More work on the Incident Reporting System, including meeting with members of the University and researching any similar schemes at other HEIs (more in my verbal report)
- Went to the Disability Equality Scheme Steering Group where we looked, amongst other things, at the

- new proposals for Iffley Sports Centre
- Attended the Health & Safety Consultative Committee
- The OUSU Exec met the Proctors and discussed night safety and the Freshers' Fair
- Finished the preparation for Advocacy training with Alex which is taking place on Thursday
- Attended an Equal Opportunities event at Corpus
- Spoke at the Peer Support Conference about OUSU and the Student Advice Service

**Alex Bulfin  
Affairs)**

**V-P (Access & Academic**

The past fortnight has again been dominated by higher education funding, particularly in the wake of David Willett's announcement and in the build up to next Wednesday's National Demo in London. All our conversations in the University suggest that there is a lot still up for grabs!

### **Update on Council mandates** (also verbal report in Council)

Work has been continuing on lobbying the University and Colleges to reject proposals to start using the A\* in its admissions process. By the time you read this the proposals will have passed through the first University committee in the final round of decisions on this subject, and I will hopefully be able to feed back on this in Council. As I said in my last report, the prospects look promising, although there is still a long way to go, but I want to again thank all common room presidents, OUSU officers, access officers and academic affairs reps for their hard work in bringing this issue to their college's attention. The number of colleges who have contacted me for more information, citing the actions of student representatives in prompting them to do so, has been staggering. The same should also be said of Divisional Board representatives, who have also done a fantastic job.

### **HE funding**

I have been meeting with University officers to try and get as much information over the government's plans and Oxford's response as possible, as well as having lots of meetings with students and common room officers to drive up turnout for the demo. (I am nearing my '25 conversations' pledge made after Council last week!)

### **Representation**

In the last fortnight I have represented Oxford students at University Council, Education Committee, JCCSM, and the Gender Equality Steering Group. Once again the dominant issues have been higher education funding and A\*s, but graduate funding and bursaries have also featured prominently.

### **Follow-up to Teaching Review**

There have also been several follow-up points from OUSU's Review of Teaching over the past fortnight. I was invited to a meeting of the Theology Faculty to discuss the report and its implications for teaching. Along with my predecessor and the part-time academic affairs officer, I was also invited to a meeting in the Oxford Learning Institute with representatives from Copenhagen University to discuss student involvement in educational projects, at which we discussed teaching review and our forthcoming peer-feedback project.

### **Peer-feedback project**

Hannah and I are continuing to work on a study that is looking to see whether marking work can be a way of increasing students' understanding of marking criteria; this is being conducted with the help of the Oxford Learning Institute. We are currently recruiting colleges to take part in the study so if anyone is interested in involving their college then please get in touch. In the last week we have also submitted the study for consideration for a conference on education taking place next summer.

### **Common Room support**

This week I have met with a number of common room access and academic affairs officers one-on-one to discuss their colleges in detail and what their projects are for the coming year (or what they may be handing on to their successors). I have also been working with Tom to put the final touches to our advocacy training next week.

Hello council,

As always if you want to chat about anything environmental/ethical/charitable/community... (um can't think of and adjective there recommendations?) just drop me an email [charities@ousu.org](mailto:charities@ousu.org).

I took two days out of normal work to interview candidates for our chief exec, so a little less portfolio work got done, especially with all the extra logistics work for tomorrow's demo. See you there!

### **Charity**

Well RAG raised £8.5k off the bungee jump (after costs) so that's a win. RAG also went to London to sell poppies and we're still counting the money. Awesome times. Last big push for the term is the RAG ball - £60 for the best night of your life including a cider bar, cocktails, open bar, hog roast and LASER ARCHERY (I have no idea what this is, but I'm excited). Also, if you get a group of 10 people together, you get an extra free ticket.

### **Environment and Ethics**

The EandE campaign are pushing three campaigns this year – stopping the Oxford name being associated with sweatshops, bringing colleges up to a minimum standard of recycling and improving the biodiversity of the university by planting nectar beds. I've set up a meeting with council officers to instruct EandE reps and J/MCR presidents about what recycling is actually out there, so that they're armed against any... mistakes college authorities may make.

### **Community**

After meeting with local councillors and residents it has become apparent that the people of East Oxford think that student behaviour is getting steadily worse. I will be working with the sabs at Brookes on how to best integrate students into the community. Somebody mentioned the word street party, somebody else student charity work. I feel a plan coming on.

I also spent a lot of time last week interviewing candidates for Big Brother Big Sister. The calibre was very high and I was pleased with the number of applicants. The programme will start as soon as the County Council let me know how many volunteers are needed.

### **Safety Bus**

The Safety bus needs more drivers! If you are 21 with 2 years' driving experience and no more than 3 points on your license please get in touch with me! Safety Bus shifts are amazingly fun and the people you work with are no less than awesome. You only need to commit to four nights out of the year, but be warned, after your first you'll definitely want to do more!

Need the Safety Bus? If you're lost, alone, too drunk to stand or simply a little cold and can't be bothered to walk call 0771 444 5050. Whether there's one of you or ten, a big white mini bus will whisk its way to you as quickly as they can for just a £1 donation per person.

## **PART TIME OFFICERS**

Since we last met I have mostly been doing lots of different things. Aside from exec meetings I have also been continuing to work with Alex on the Peer Marking project. The OLI invited us to present the project, and the Teaching Review at a conference they were holding with students and academics from Copenhagen University. That was a bit surreal, but very interesting. I think since we last spoke the protest against Vince Cable/ Vince

Cable not coming came and went with much success. I also went along to Campaigns Committee to think about raising awareness of the facts of the Browne Review and raising turnout for the National Demo. The next time we meet Council will be my last as Academic Affairs Campaigns Officer but in the meantime if you have any questions please get in touch by emailing [academicaffairs@ousu.org](mailto:academicaffairs@ousu.org).

**Yuan Yang  
Officer**

**Women's**

We've been plenty busy getting three weeks packed with inspiring talks and events for Oxford Gender Equality Festival. Please see one of the flyers circulating around or popped into your agenda. I hope I'll see you at some of them!

If you want to blog for us, or write articles for the OxStu or Alligator, just email me with your ideas: [womensofficer@ousu.org](mailto:womensofficer@ousu.org).

best wishes,  
Yuan x

Amendments to flyer:  
Everyday Sexism Forum is on MON, not TUES, of 5<sup>th</sup> Week.

NEW EVENT:  
FRI 5<sup>th</sup> Week, 8pm, How To Make Change: Beginners' guide to campaigning the Amnesty International way.  
Location TBC (keep up to date on Facebook).

**Jack Matthews  
Officer**

**Common Room Support**

Second to last council report ever! Here we go;

- Societies Bank Account; Have been working with Santander to start publishing the new account.
- Appointments Board; I have been interviewing the candidates for th position of Chief Executive of OUSU all day Thursday and Friday of 4th Week.
- Clubs Committee; I have been returned as the undergraduate exec member on Clubs Committee once more, and will be attending in 5th Week.
- Press; dealing with the press to make sure they dont print things that wouldnt be helpful to Common Rooms.
- HE Funding; Attended both the OEC meeting and the OUSU HE Funding meeting.
- Scrutination; I have been scrutinated for the last time!

Any questions, let me know.

**David Bowe  
Officer**

**Grad Welfare**

Apologies for not being present.

Some things that I've done -

- Having held a meeting with MCR welfare reps I have circulated a follow-up document outlining the issues discussed and giving the information requested.
- I wangled OUSU graduate welfare provision onto the agenda of the Humanities DPhil introductory session and made arrangements for information to be included in the online support materials.
- I've consequently been exploring the possibility of incorporating this information into other such divisional introductory programmes.
- I've contributed to the Student Information Service's report on the Early Arrival drop in session for international students.

Any questions, queries, or requests, please email me: [gradwelfare@ousu.org](mailto:gradwelfare@ousu.org)