

Reports to Council

5th Week Council MT12

David J. Townsend

President

For more information, contact me at president@ousu.org or ask me a question in OUSU Council.

Careers Guide:

I hope that many of you saw the inaugural OUSU-Careers Service Guide to Careers at the start of this term. It's delivered for free to all final year and penultimate year students, but you can also view it online at www.careers.ox.ac.uk/the-guide. We have worked with the University's Careers Service to make this a more useful publication for students, including beefing up the information on what you can do while you're still here at Oxford to make the most of your time.

We're going to do it again next year, and we're reviewing what goes into it. We want to have more student involvement in the design and so forth, and we're keen to include more 'third sector' career options. If you're interested in this, watch out for further information in my weekly e-mails.

Private Accommodation:

Some agents are reluctant to get on board with the traffic light scheme this year, which is disappointing. As I've said since the start, this is a multi-year endeavour and in this first year the main thing is to make sure that students aren't scared into signing early by unscrupulous letting agents, because the plain market fundamentals mean that *there is no shortage of student accommodation in Oxford*. The success of this year will convince any wavering agents that they'd better get on board pretty quickly.

I'm working with Brookes University Students' Union to develop more comprehensive rating information on letting agents for this year, which I will publicise through all available channels.

National Demonstration:

Common room representatives decided in OUSU Council at our last meeting that OUSU would officially support the National Demonstration. If you're interested in knowing more about plans for the National Demonstration (or even helping to plan it), e-mail demo@ousu.org.

Movember:

All of OUSU's full-time officers and staff are participating in Movember, each according to his or her own potential for hirsuteness. Movember is a charitable movement which was established by some blokes down in Melbourne in 2004 and encourages men to let their moustaches grow out during the month of November to raise awareness about, and solicit donations for the fight against, prostate cancer and depression. The point of this scheme is that talking about, and having assessments for, prostate cancer and/or depression have historically been seen as a challenge to masculinity, so Movember was established as a way of refuting that nonsense by linking it to the moustache, an article whose masculinity has a long and well-respected pedigree (Vercingetorix, Lando Calrissian, Magnum PI, etc.). If you'd like to sponsor us, go to mobro.co/mousu.

This explains why I may end up looking a bit like Uncle Chop Chop by the end of the month.

Hooroo,

DJT

Highlights

Following the election of the Division Representatives for this year in Council, I have been meeting them all individually and we have run a successful Division Rep Training session. I have also been recruiting successfully with the Development Office for our Graduate Fundraising Ambassador Scheme, and for our 'Managing Your Supervisor' Event. There are more details on this below. With these complete I am now organizing Mature Student and International Student events for the coming weeks and looking for people to join the International Student Campaign Committee. Finally, the OUSU elections have now begun and have, unfortunately, taken up quite a bit of my time over the last couple of weeks.

Division Representatives

Our Division Representatives are now all in post and have begun meeting students and staff in their Division. A lot of good ideas were raised at the training workshop around the organization of representation and the avenues open to them, and so the starting point for all reps is going to be a process of relationship building within their Divisions. We will be taking some of their ideas, including online contact details and access to mailing lists, forward to the University.

Managing Your Supervisor

I have organized an information session for postgraduate research students in 6th week, to be run by Ingrid Lunt who was, until recently, Deputy Head of the Education department. The session helps students manage their relationship with their supervisor to ensure that it is as productive as possible. The session is now full but will be filmed so that it can be put up online on the OUSU and University website as a resource for students. I have raised £320 from within the University for this project.

Graduate Ambassador Scheme

The Graduate Fundraising Ambassador Scheme has been recruiting now for a couple of weeks and we have had a lot of interest. This project involves graduates directly in the University's fundraising efforts to ensure graduate funding is at the forefront of donor's minds when deciding how to give. Interviewing will start in 6th week and people are still invited to apply.

Mature and International Student Events

The Mature Students' Officer, Leilei Huang, and myself have held one poorly attended mature student event this term, which served as a useful focus group on how to reach mature students in the future. We are now organising a second mature student event for 6th week. Our Graduate Welfare Officer is also organizing an International Students Brunch for Saturday of 6th Week (17th Nov), which will also give us a chance to select a new International Students' Campaign Committee.

Motions in Council

Progress has been slow on the Graduate Financial Guarantee motion but I have now had the opportunity to meet the students who brought the motion. A meeting is being arranged for 5th week between college representatives, staff from Graduate Admissions, and myself.

As always this is report records the news and highlights from my work over the last 2 weeks. If anyone has any questions about any of this or my other work then please do ask them in Council or email me (graduates@ousu.org).

To follow

It's halfway through Michaelmas! Updates on recent work are:

Exam Regs:

I've got up to speed on University's existing work around the Grey Book, and will be attending the meeting of the team looking at getting a fully fledged web alternative.

NUS Demo:

Plans and publicity for this are underway, aiming at a meeting in 6th week to raise awareness of the demonstration and the reasons for attending.

Teaching Awards

We're in the process of planning this year's awards, aiming to get them concluded within Trinity, rather than stretching out across the summer vacation.

OUSU Elections

I've been coordinating the elections Hustings - this year we've got a much greater presence in Colleges, with 17 College and Campaigning Hustings alongside the Central Hustings after Council.

Term's Goals:**Academic Representation**

Thanks to sterling work by Chris Gray, this is steaming ahead, with the draft report ready for the Joint Committee of Education Committee with Student Members. The first training for Division Representatives took place on Thursday evening, and we're in the process of collating information on departments reps.

Student Access Volunteering

College Outreach Officers have given their support for an online hub to promote and publicise student volunteering in access work hosted by the OUSU website. Target Schools are on target to produce an updated plan for their coordination with Colleges and the University, and both tie into the ongoing work on the Common Framework for Access. OUSU's role in this has been updated to include support for JCRs and student access volunteering in general.

Feedback on Mods and Prelims

This has been raised at both the Social Sciences Undergraduate Discussion Forum and the Humanities Divisional JCC, with students making clear their support for such moves. I'll be taking it forward with the Division Reps, JCR AcAffs.

David

Hi Council,

Michaelmas is racing past and the last two weeks have seen a flurry of activity on the charities and community front. We are now in the middle of National Living Wage Week, so I hope you've caught some of the publicity surrounding this and are keen to get involved. Here's a summary of some of the things I've been working on; as ever, please don't hesitate to get in touch for more information: charities@ousu.org

Community

I've started work on a new project to encourage partnerships between local schools and community groups with College sports grounds, partly as a means to encourage interaction between 'town' and

'gown' and partly as an access and widening participation project. I have started working with the City Council's Parks and Leisure Department, some Common Room Presidents, and some Domestic Bursars and attended the University's Sports Strategy Subcommittee to discuss this.

I've been working towards and organizing a number of meetings in 5th week around student and community interaction namely, the Student-Community Partnership Group and the City Centre Area Forum. I'm also in the initial stages of planning the roll out of a new set of Community Wardens - look out for this over the next few weeks.

Planning is continuing well for the Volunteering Showcase and the Oxford Hub is now involved. I also attended the Oxford Hub's Advisory Board.

Living Wage

The efforts of the campaign are continuing with renewed vigor and the publicity surrounding Living Wage Week. I will be speaking at a low pay debate organized by local churches in Oxford and the Campaign has several other activities planned for this week, including a College specific campaign meeting on Thursday at 5pm in OUSU.

Third Sector Careers and Training

I have been working with the Careers Service to organize a series of workshops on skills for entering the Third Sector to be delivered next term. Campaigns Training workshops are continuing well with an excellent workshop on Effective Communication given by People and Planet last week. Come along to the next one on Leadership by Teach First.

Charity

The RAG Ball has now sold out, in record time! It's shaping up to be excellent and if you weren't able to get your ticket in time, e-mail marketing.oxfordragball@gmail.com

Other RAG events: we have finalized next term's events and teams to organize them and I am in the process of meeting the teams individually to start off the planning process. In inter-collegiate mo-off is going well - OUSU has entered a team too: look up Team mOUSU on the Movember website.

Environment

Buy Right Campaign: Sean Robinson and I met with Oxford Limited to check up on their progress for licensing out their branding to ethical workshops. We are still waiting for a disclosure form to see the data.

On the suggestion of a postgrad at Balliol I am looking into changing our printing at OUSU to a company which has zero-wastage, and am working with E&E reps to lobby their Colleges to do similarly. I also attended Sustainability Steering Group and am looking into the scope of social sustainability.

Suzanne Holsomback	VP (Women)
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Good Evening All,

I hope you are doing well. I have been planning away and seeing some really amazing developments in the area of harassment. OUSU sabbaticals and Student Advice Service advisors have been working on this for years, so this is a HUGE win!

A quick fact for you...

The current University harassment policy has a few gaps, such as sexual harassment and stalking.

In 2009, OUSU began advocating the University on this issue.

What I'm doing about it...

- I have a University Working Group meeting in 8th week to embed harassment policy into colleges and increase the awareness, use, and training of harassment advisors.
- OUSU has been asked to identify gaps in the current policy, so the writing of the new policy in Hilary by the Equality and Diversity Unit will include sexual harassment, stalking, and provision for students.
- The Harassment Advisors', administered through the Equality and Diversity Unit, training will reflect these new additions as well as new, creative, and accessible training for Advisors, college decision makers, and first responders, like porters.

What else I'm doing from 9-5(ish)...

- Worked toward closing gender gaps through convening the International Gender Studies Michaelmas seminar series - 'Gender Gaps at Oxford: 800 years of ignoring women?' Every Thursday at 2pm at LMH. Join us!!!
- Planned the OUSU Women's Leadership Development Programme for Hilary Term. All women are welcome. Applications are available on Monday of 6th week.
- Ran Sexual Consent Workshop facilitators debrief sessions. Lots of helpful comments, lots of changes coming.
- Held an End Sexual Violence Campaign organising meeting. We are raising awareness, busting myths about rape and sexual assault, and encouraging health sexual consent practises! If you are interested in joining, email me!

Shout out...

This week's shout out goes to Paola Ferrari, DPhil in Biochemistry at Exeter College. Paola helped organise the Student Parent Social on 20 October. She went above and beyond with thinking through details particular to children, her college, and what would make it a successful event! Thank you!!!

PART TIME OFFICERS

David Butler

Rent & Accommodation Officer

Alongside my normal duties as exec member (such as attending ousu exec and ousu council), I have been working on the following tasks;

- Investigating potential funding mechanisms for the new cost-of-living index. By the time of council, I will have reported back to the President.
- Doing basic casework when directly approach by students
- Preparing for Living Out talks that will be given across a number of colleges in 7th and 8th week

Oliver Gleeson

Community & Charity Outreach Officer

Hi Council!

The last few weeks have been busy with RAG as lots of things have been going on! The RAG Ball sold out in record time and is set to be an AMAZING night on Saturday 7th Week! Additionally, we are organised Halloween Formals across a number of colleges, have been working hard to promote a club night that also raises money for charity and are going to London on Saturday to collect money for Oxfam, which should be great fun. Although by the time you read this report in Council, we would have already been to London...

Keep being charitable

Oliver