

# Reports to Council

5<sup>th</sup> Week Council Michaelmas 2014

## **Sabbatical Officers**

Louis Trup – President

**Dearest council, please see below some things I have done since the last time we met:**

### **Clubs and Socs**

Met with the Assessor to see how OUSU's upcoming clubs and socs support work can fit with the work of the proctors office. Continued planning for improving online information available for clubs and socs.

### **Rent negotiations**

Continued to update the rent negotiations handbook to help common rooms in rent negotiations later in the year.

Working with the chair of the conference of colleges' domestic bursars' committee to find ways to get better data on college rents and also managed to get him to agree to meet with those involved in college rent negotiations so as to give JCR and MCRs the view of the domestic bursars – allowing for more joined up work across colleges.

### **Voter Reg**

Working with college domestic bursars to find ways of making sure as many students as possible know about how to register to vote.

Met with leaders of Oxford political societies to plan for voter registration week in Hilary.

With Ruth, went to the houses of parliament to make sure the government know what we are doing here, and know the negative impacts the move to Individual Electoral Registration may have on students. OUSU is the first student union to present at the All Party Parliamentary Group on Students. This will hopefully give us some political routes in to decision makers when we campaign in the run up to the general election.

### **Proctors**

Helped get an OUSU representative on the Committee for the Proctors Office, allowing us to ensure they work in a way that thinks more about the students they deal with.

### **Innovation**

Been working with various people involved in innovation (including but not limited to the Launchpad, Isis innovation, Said Business School and IT Services) to help join up thinking on innovation.

Finalised details of the new £200,000 fund for student innovation which is going to be launched soon.

## **Governance things**

With Margery, one of the student trustees, am finalising OUSU's position on the review of our Articles of Association, with the view to negotiate the details with the university soon. This work takes ages, despite it being of little interest to most people.

## **The UCU**

Met with the leaders of the local UCU (the union for Uni staff) to find out more information about the current marking boycott and the upcoming decision on changing the university's procedures around sacking employees (statute XII). Contact me if you have concerns about how the marking boycott will affect you.

## **Work covering for Chris**

Met with the chairs of Mind Your Head to try to better understand the campaign's relationship with OUSU with a view to making a constitution. I hope Chris will continue this work.

Helped organize WelfCom – the meeting of all MCR and JCR Welfare reps, which was really useful to all who came.

Loads of other things also happened. Especially elections prep.

## James Blythe – VP Access and Academic Affairs

Hi Council,

It's been a pretty busy couple of weeks. I have taken over LGBTQ-related stuff within the sab team as part of our plan for covering VP (WEO) for the time being, and that has been very interesting for me – I've enjoyed helping Adam & Crash with their amazing work and campaigning, though I feel very aware I don't have enough time to help them as much as they deserve. Sorry, team!

## Access

- Great meeting with Justice from African-Caribbean Society (ACS) about a specific version of the Target Schools Shadowing scheme for African-Caribbean students – the next stage is going to be to set up a meeting of some kind of steering group. Essi Turkson has agreed to be the Target Schools lead, and the group will also have someone from the University as well as me and someone from ACS.
- My plans for the Access Summit are coming along nicely – the college and department outreach officers were supportive when I brought it to them. I now need one of them to give us a venue and that's a current priority.
- I'm also part of a new Working Group on applicant course choice and we're designing a survey for current students. I think this is a really important issue: there is significant clustering of flagged applicants in a few courses that are really hard to get in for (e.g. E&M, Medicine, Law) and we need to understand the reasons for that better.

- Took the bursary package that came to Council in 3<sup>rd</sup> week to JCR Presidents and then submitted OUSU's response to the University.
- Committees: Admissions Committee; Outreach Officers' Forum; Moritz-Heyman Management Group.

### Academic Affairs

- Took the idea of an OUSU Education Vision to Exec & the Joint Committee, JS(EC)SM – Exec are very supportive, and I will be able to give a verbal update on JS(EC)SM's view at Council. This will be a major piece of work for me over the next two terms, I think.
- Trained all the divisional board reps except Raj Dattani (not because I don't like him...).
- Spent a lot of time talking about how tuition fee & government income to the University is split between colleges and the University as part of the Joint Resource Allocation Review Group (New) (JRARGN). While a lot of the questions are quite technical, I think there are some important questions, particularly about planning for an uncertain future picture of higher education funding.
- Committees: University Council; PRAC; JRARGN; JS(EC)SM.

Busy times! Follow my #committeelyf at @ousu\_acaff.

### Anna Bradshaw – VP Women

*The last couple of weeks have been very busy, and the full swing of term has definitely hit. As always, if you have any questions about anything below, get in touch with me at women@ousu.ox.ac.uk,*

xAnna

### **Sexual Health & Sexual Violence**

#### Consent Workshops

The main piece of work I have been doing here is working to review the Queering Consent Workshops. After Chris' suspension I had to postpone this slightly, but (at the time of writing) the review is progressing well and I should be ready to start training next week. I am consulting the LGBTQ Campaign and the LGBTQ Society's trans reps to make the most substantial revisions.

As part of this review (and also in its own right) I ran a working entitled *Queering Consent and Responding to Violence* at the Feminism in Theory and Action conference on Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup>. The workshop used one of the scenarios from the revised workshops, provided statistics and space to think about the links between rape myths and anti-LGBTQ harassment and violence, and asked the group to reflect on what consent, sex, and being queer mean to them.

(Non-queer) Consent Workshops ran at St Benet's for all freshers on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Manifesto pledge: 'I will ... expand and develop the programme ... [and] introduce compulsory freshers' workshops in 1/3 colleges by the beginning for next year.'*

### Other Training

I piloted the new First Respondent Training for common room committees and other student leaders who are likely to receive disclosures with the St John's MCR, and have altered the training slightly following the session. I am now ready to offer this more widely, and will be sending out information to Common Room presidents and welfare and women's officers about it very soon.

I delivered training to the Good Lad Project leadership team and will be training the facilitators on the November 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Related to manifesto pledges to do with 'actual first responders' and my focus on 'Sexual Health & Sexual Violence'.*

### Harassment Policies

The inter-campaign Harassment Policy Working Group has had its first meeting, and me and Caitlin (who leads the group) have a meeting with the Equality and Diversity Unit on November 10<sup>th</sup>. We will be discussing the planned communication of the University's updated Harassment Policy and Procedure to students.

*Related to manifesto pledges to do with 'actual first responders' and my focus on 'Sexual Health & Sexual Violence'.*

### **Academic Attrition**

I have continued to support the Eden, the Graduate Women's Officer, in the organization of three panels in 6<sup>th</sup> week, though this has been pretty much entirely her project.

Both Eden and me will be on a panel at Balliol MCR discussing academic attrition on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

*Manifesto pledge: 'I will work closely with the Graduate Women's Officer to hold events that encourage undergraduate women to consider further study, including open nights in STEM departments, and Ask a Grad events in colleges.'*

### **Student Parents**

I held the first Tea & Toys social on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, which went generally well though attendance was a little lower than expected.

I researched for and wrote the motion for 5<sup>th</sup> Week Council about introducing a Student Parents and Carers Officer, including working out the remit for the role.

I have sent out targeted emails to the presidents of all of the common rooms that we are still missing information about for the accommodation database/

*Manifesto pledge: 'I will work with the Graduate Women's Officer to lobby all colleges to provide baby changing facilities by the end of next year, and provide a well-publicized database for coupled students and student parents.'*

### **Common Room Superhero Handbook**

I scanned the handbook, uploaded it to my blog on the OUSU website, sent it out to relevant mailing lists, and publicized it through social media.

*Moving towards all manifesto pledges that concern changes in colleges, including Morning After Pill and Solace Centre travel reimbursement, and the provision of baby changing facilities.*

### **Women in Leadership**

I met with two of the St John's graduate 2000 Women Ambassadors, and a fellow of St John's, to talk through the arrangements for the micro-Women's Leadership Development Programme that we are piloting in the St John's MCR next term. It was a really great discussion, and we will be working closely together on all materials and evaluating the programme, looking to hand my successor the opportunity to run this in more colleges next year.

I have also begun the publicity for the main Women's Leadership Development Programme, and am reviewing the application forms.

*Manifesto pledge: 'I will make the continuation and expansion of OUSU's Women's Leadership Development Programme a priority. I want to enable facilitators to run parallel events in colleges and departments...'*

### **Covering WEO**

I took on a substantial amount of the work needed to cover Chris Pike's work during his suspension. I primarily took on ongoing general welfare projects, but also acted as a first point of contact for anyone unsure of whom to contact. The largest pieces of this work involved running 'WelfCom', and doing a lot of the work to organize who was going to cover which aspects of the role, both with Louis and, to a lesser degree, other sabbatical and part-time officers.

### **Campaigns**

#### WomCam

As part of the campaigns review process, I drafted a constitution, mission, vision and values for the Women's Campaign, and sought consultation on this from both the committee of the campaign and the relevant OUSU External Trustee. I also acted as Returning Officer for some elections that the campaign held on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## It Happens Here

I met with previous members of It Happens Here to discuss the direction of the campaign, and to get approval for forming a new committee. This went well, and I am aiming to organize the first It Happens Here event for the International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 26<sup>th</sup>) and send out information before Council. The main new projects of It Happens Here will be through the inter-campaign Harassment Policy Working Group, a Sexual Violence Summit in February, and a collecting stories the relate to interactions with the Thames Valley Police.

## **Elections**

I coordinated with the Women's Campaign to set cross-campaign liberation hustings for November 10<sup>th</sup>, and have been more generally fulfilling duties of being on Elections Committee.

I also took an agenda item to JCR PresCom about women in JCR elections, and as a result held a drop-in session at OUSU on November 6<sup>th</sup> for any Presidents, ROs and other relevant JCR committee members to offer advice for encouraging women to run in elections. I will be running a workshop for women thinking about running in at least one college this week, as an action from this drop-in session.

## **Events and Committees**

- *Queering Consent & Responding to Violence*, workshop at *Feminism in Theory and Action* (1<sup>st</sup> November)
- *Tea & Toys* student parents' social (2<sup>nd</sup> November)
- *WomCam* Elections (3<sup>rd</sup> November), liberation campaign hustings (10<sup>th</sup> November)
- *JCR PresCom* (4<sup>th</sup> November)
- *WelfCom* (5<sup>th</sup> November)

## Yasser Bhatti – VP Graduates

My report for 5th Week council:

I had an eventful and exciting fortnight with lots of meetings, wins and in progress activities towards further achievements for fellow students. I have been involved with:

WINS:

1. Paper on "Managing Supervision Expectations" submitted to Chair of the Graduate Studies Administration and Procedures Group (GSAPG)
2. Selection panel issued 2 National Society grants amounting to £478

REPRESENTATION:

3. Attended Doctoral Well being seminar at Oxford Learning Institute

4. Sab team had lunch meeting at Harris Manchester College
5. Attended JCR Prescom
6. Helped coordinate Exam school provision for alternative arrangements, particularly early Ramadan month 2015 which falls during exams period
7. Attended first Oxford Innovation Subcommittee 1 meeting

IN PROGRESS:

8. Physics department review for 2.5 full days.
9. Graduate Committee report presentation on Masters Course Survey.
10. Part time Education policy consultation under way
11. ISC elections

**Declaration:** Received the “Youth Inspiration Award” from Vice Chancellor at Pakistan Futures Leaders Conference on 31 Oct at Sheldonian Theatre. There was no monetary award associated other than invitation to dinner.

In this week of council meeting, I have education committee and look forward to debates in elections from OUSU’s next leaders.

Ruth Meredith – VP Charities and Community

Hi Council!

Here’s what I’ve been up to this fortnight:

**Voter Registration**

Louis and I presented to the APPG on Students regarding voter registration, which allowed us to discuss the most effective tactics for our Hilary registration drive.

**Leadership Training**

In Hilary, I’ll be running a term-long leadership training course. I’ve been putting together the application forms and the speaker lists, and getting ready to advertise it.

**RAG**

I ran a ball. And a firewalk. They were both great.

The ball ran incredibly smoothly thanks to the very hard work of the RAG Ball committee. Last year there were 12 serious first-aid incidents, this year there were none, we managed to set down all of the equipment within an hour, and 800 guests had a great time!

RAG’s Firewalk team worked so so hard to put on our first ever firewalk. So far it’s raised around £2000, with donations still coming in!

We’re getting ready to launch Jailbreak in 6<sup>th</sup> week, and two challenges; climbing Kilimanjaro and trekking through Morocco. We’re also pushing Movember, and working on fundraising workshops.

## **Living Wage**

I've met with several common room presidents to encourage accreditation. We've got two really exciting announcements that are currently confidential, but will be released before the end of term.

We ran three common-room events in Living Wage Week (4<sup>th</sup> week) and a university-wide speaker event with approximately 50 people attending.

## **#VeggiePledge and Foodbanks**

VeggiePledge is going so so well thanks to Xav's hard work! There's now 300 people involved. I've been working with the Islamic Society, Just Love, and Food Justice to organize an end of term foodbank collection in colleges and annexes for the Community Emergency Foodbank and reduce waste.

## **Part-Time Executive Officers**

Eden Tanner – Graduate Womens Officer

Hope term is treating everyone kindly!

I've been plowing on fulfilling the last of my outstanding manifesto pledges, and supporting WomCam.

As an ex-officio member of the **Women's Campaign Committee**, I helped organise the Meg Barker event held last week. We had a really excellent turn-out, and the event was a big success.

In terms of my manifesto pledges:

1. **Couples and Family Accommodation Database:** Anna has been helping me tie up loose ends here – we've sent another round of emails, so hopefully that will yield results soon!
2. **Ask A Grad Panels:**  
These are being held in 6<sup>th</sup> Week. Three panels – Life Sciences, Medical Sciences, and Physical Sciences – have been mostly organised (still a small amount of work to do around coordinating speakers and confirming venues).

*Until next Council!*

Niina Tamura – Graduate Welfare Officer

I have opened the graduate welfare survey and am currently trying to distribute it to as many graduate common rooms as possible. Responses are starting to come in. The aim is to keep the survey open until the end of 6th week, leaving 2 weeks to work the results into a report.

Xavier Cohen – Environment and Ethics Officer

#VeggiePledge has been the main bit of my work for the past couple of weeks. I'm really proud to say that - as of writing - over 350 Oxford students have made a pledge to go (more) veggie or vegan during November. Considering this is the first year of the campaign, I think that's a really great start and provides a great opportunity to build on in future years. The key will be to tap into more colleges that currently haven't made many pledges. The divestment campaign is still steaming along - our priority at the moment is to keep momentum, energy, and growth in the campaign as we now get close to a decision from the first university committee the campaign will have been considered in full by.

Emily Silcock – Community Outreach and Charities Officer

Hi Council,

The last couple of weeks have been amazing!  
Homelessness Awareness Week was a huge success: we had over 500 students come to events and raised over £1000 (through RAG). It was great to sit in on sessions with loads of people who were genuinely really interested in discussing the issues surrounding homelessness in Oxford.

On top of that, last Thursday we had a huge campaigning meeting with all the homelessness services in Oxford, where we talked about coming together to campaign on issues surrounding homelessness in Oxford. It was really exciting to hear the conclusion that they wanted students to be at the forefront of this campaigning - it's pretty much the first time we've been identified as anything other than a problem.

Finally, by the time you're reading this, we will have elected a chair for the On Your Doorstep, meaning I'll have gently nudged it into being self-supporting!

On a slightly sadder note, no one is running for my role in the OUSU elections :( but - if you would like to, you can run for the position in council as early as 7th week. Please drop me an email if you're interested in finding out more and pass this on to anyone who you think might be interested. I know a lot of people wouldn't think about running for the role unless it was suggested to them.

Emily

Jamie Wells – Health and Welfare Officer

The past couple of weeks have been fairly busy. I attended the inaugural WelfCom which seemed to be really productive and get welfare officers talking to each other and sharing their experiences and ideas about welfare initiatives in their colleges. I have also attended the University Health and Safety Committee and also started to think with Anna about supporting sex and relationship education campaigning. Looking forward, I will be helping out with Suspended Status Student workshops and events surrounding World AIDS Day and National HIV Testing Week, and helping to design training for college welfare reps.

Lucy Delaney – Women's Campaign Officer

WomCam is still going very well. On Monday we hosted a 'Trans 102' workshop, which went extremely well. Following this, we had a by-election and welcomed three new members to the committee (we now have a Chair, and International Women's Rep and a new Publicity Officer). We're very excited for the rest of term - next week WomCam's Women of Colour Working Group will be collaborating with CRAE to host a talk about racial micro-aggressions, which is looking like a very promising event.

Adam Ward – LGBTQ Officer

Hello Council!

I have been working with the OUSU LGBTQ Campaign on many exciting campaigns.

Key items:

- Bye Bi Prejudice. This is a new campaign to raise awareness of prejudices many bi people face. We will be asking people who identify as bi to create a drawing/message which will provide an opportunity to dispel stereotypes and prejudices. During 7th week we will be distributing the messages across the University.
- I have been in discussion with the previous LGBTQ Officer about creating support booklets for College LGBTQ Reps
- I have been working with the VP for Women on publicity for Queering Consent Workshops.

Please get in touch if you have any questions or ideas for the LGBTQ Campaign!

Adam

Will Neaverson – Common Room Support Officer

Hi Council! Three things to report for this week.

Firstly, I would like to formally welcome back Christ Church GCR, who reaffiliated with OUSU in their 3<sup>rd</sup> Week GM. Thanks go to Erfan and - with whom I've been working for the past few months – for their enthusiasm and support that brings their Common Room back into the fold with OUSU.

Secondly, I want to remind undergraduate Common Room presidents that the Common Room Information System survey is live and I'm accepting responses until Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November. This is a huge project, and I appreciate their support in making it happen, as well as the support of fellow PTE and Sabb officers who have contributed to the questions and structure of the survey. I'll hopefully be bringing some results and a report to 7<sup>th</sup> Week Council.

Finally, I'm looking to work on a motion passed by Christopher Casson, St. Catherine's College, in 3<sup>rd</sup> Week Council. We had consulted on it earlier in term, and I look forward to bringing into place a 'suggestion box' so that all students of the University can get involved in policymaking here at OUSU.

As always – any questions or queries can be sent to [commonrooms@ousu.org](mailto:commonrooms@ousu.org)!

Leonie Smith – Mature Students' Officer

The MS campaign continues to go from strength to strength. The first MS campaign meeting took place in third week, our first social followed soon after, and our first weekly Thursday drinks event was held last night. Attendance has rocketed since holding the orientation event, and there is currently a thriving community, which is fantastic.

Our post-Orientation Day report was welcomed by the university admissions team, and following up on this, the campaign chair and I are meeting with the university next week to discuss plans for including the MS orientation day in the regular university schedule.

In terms of access, members of the OUSU exec have highlighted number of ideas for committees we should be targeting, and we're scheduling a meeting with the new Director of Undergraduate Admissions to follow up on the points raised over the summer, to hopefully take place before my tenure as MS officer ends!

James Elliott – Disabled Students' Officer

Over the last two weeks my primary areas of focus have been firstly, working to introduce disabled students officers in individual colleges, secondly, setting up a committee for the disabled students campaign group, and thirdly the Disability History Month event with NUS in 7th week.

I have been liaising with disabled students in individual colleges and circulating a draft motion for them to create officers in their common rooms. This has been successful in a number of

JCRs this term but there are still plenty of JCRs and many MCRs without any disabled-specific representation.

The committee for the disabled students campaign has been a long-term problem I have wanted to overcome. Working with the Vice-President for Welfare and Equal Opportunities a notice was sent out across welfare mailing lists to inform them of the existence of this committee and to encourage students to participate.

Finally, in 7th week I will be hosting a Disability History Month event with the National Union of Students. I am currently looking for anyone who would like to take part and help, so please do let me know!

### **Divisional Board Representatives**

#### **Emma Alexander – Social Sciences – Undergraduate**

Hello Council! By today I will have attended the Undergraduate Studies Committee, where I am presenting an item on NSS feedback regarding dissatisfaction with Assessment and Feedback criteria - I'll let you know how that went down next time. I will also have attended the Politics UJCC. I attended training at OUSU for Divisional Reps, which was a great event - thanks to James and Matt for organising that one. Unfortunately the Undergraduate Discussion Forum for the division was cancelled this term due to a lack of business - I would like to encourage anyone who is allowed to attend this event to please submit agenda items this term; it's an ideal avenue for you to raise things that have come up in UJCC meetings, which otherwise don't always go anywhere. I'm also working on trying to organise a Politics Options event, similar to that run by Economics, so watch this space about that. I've sent round a survey to reps within my Division to try and identify problems that might be arising, so I will also be working on some action points from that too.

#### **Hilary Chow – Social Sciences – Postgraduate**

This is my first proper report to the council as the recently elected graduate representative for the Social Sciences Division.

The followings are some of the things I have done after my last report:

1. I met the Assistant Registrar (Graduates), Dr Andy Garlick, to discuss further on my role and what I can do in the committee and the board.
2. I contacted the Deputy Divisional Secretary, Dr Stephen Conway, to familiarise myself with the structure of the divisional board.
3. I attended my first divisional board meeting on 24 October 2014, and also have had the opportunity to meet and briefly communicate with the more experienced undergraduate representative.

4. I talked to more members within the division to let them learn of my existence.
5. I talked briefly to several other academics on the board, including Prof M Stevens (who's the chair of the Graduate Studies Committee), Prof E Macaro (who's the head of education, my department), as well as Prof J Michie (who's the head of continuing education and Kellogg, my college) on my appointment and discussed briefly about the divisional board meeting.
6. I have contacted all student representatives included on the most up-to-date contact list from the university to introduce myself, and to encourage them to contact me on feedback, opinions, and appreciation from their electorates.
7. I have attended my first council meeting.
8. I attended the training session organised by OUSU to familiarise myself further with the role and the university, and met other divisional representatives.

I would like to report on the following items:

1. The divisional board meeting mainly dealt with financial matters in the division, and have additionally met for several academic matters, including on minor amendments on the fitness to teach for PGCE students from the Department of Education, and the possibility of launching a part-time doctoral programme in criminology. One thing to note is that the university has asked divisions to watch the budgets closely as they are aiming for a surplus in the future. For more details on these, or on other matters the board discussed, please contact me.
2. On top of that, I was given the financial breakdowns of the schools, departments, and faculties within the division and the libraries. If there is a concern or interest, especially regarding the possibility of changes in funding in your school, department, or faculty, please do contact me for more detail. Alternatively, you may wish for me to express your concern or opinion to the head of your school, department, or faculty.
3. Existing commitments should not be affected, although nobody knows what the upcoming REF results will be, which might throw things off.
4. After sending out an email to the manually entered mailing list I obtained from the university and by myself, I found out that the list the university has gotten is heavily outdated. I have modified it based on the feedback, but I have also learned that not all courses have had their representatives chosen.

The followings are items I am looking to do in the near future:

1. To attend my first Graduate Studies Committee meeting.
2. To be in contact with the academic and departmental student representatives.
3. To raise the profile of this position.

#### Eden Bailey – Humanities – Undergraduate

• Divisional board meeting- the division laid out targets for gender equality, I pointed out that these are not currently visible to students, who would be glad to be made aware of them. New quotas that have been announced for minimum percentages of both full and associate professor positions to be filled by women are promising, but I raised the issue that there needs to be support for current undergraduates, postgraduates, and postdocs in order to ensure that

these positions can be filled in the future, and that a culture of encouraging women in academia becomes the norm.

- Meeting with Teresa Morgan, who is one of the leading academics in curricular reform, about increasing diversity in curricula- we discussed current reviews taking place and upcoming pilots in this area. A report is currently being prepared by Richard Sykes, who is part of the division's educational support team, which will be brought to the attention of the Undergraduate Studies Committee. We also discussed methods of encouraging change, and the speed at which this would be realistic. It is thought that as soon as some departments begin to alter their courses, others will soon follow owing to the competitive nature of faculties and departments!
- I have organised to have a meeting with Shearer West, who is head of the division, about access issues, specifically concerning the number of unfilled undergraduate places which have resulted from poorer grades in recent years, and what this means for the diversity of the student body.

#### Kristina Carney – Humanities - Postgraduate

In week 3, I attended a meeting/training session with the other divisional reps. The meeting was led by Matt and James. The meeting was intended to give the reps a brief overview of the University's structure, and brainstorm ideas about our goals as reps. I also began researching the current student survey system within the History Faculty, and started to consider how to implement a system at the graduate level. I also responded to the survey sent out by the Scrutiny Committee and provided feedback on the EPS Policy Framework for PT Masters and Dphil programs.

#### Julien Coyne - MPLS - Undergraduate

Hi Council - you may remember that you elected me a mere two weeks ago, so I'm still getting used to the role. I am now fairly sure I know about every single one of the plethora of committee meetings I'll need to attend over the course of the year. I'm actually really looking forward to getting started!

Other things I've been doing in order to get myself up to speed are scheduling meetings with OUSU reps and the relevant administrative people in MPLS (during 5th week I'm having one chat with my predecessor and another with Jared Hutchings, the MPLS Senior Assistant Registrar). I've also gone to an informational training meeting with the other division reps, the VP for Access and Academic Affairs, and the Academic Representation Officer - all very helpful. Lastly, I wrote up a short report for Scrutiny Committee about my thoughts on the role so far, which has helped me settle into exactly what my plans are for doing work in this role. Hopefully you'll get a report with some concrete progress on these plans for next Council.

If you're curious to hear more about what I'm working on, or you have any MPLS queries large or small, email me at [ug-mpls@ousu.org](mailto:ug-mpls@ousu.org)!