

# Reports to Council

## 5<sup>th</sup> Week Council Michaelmas 2015

### Sabbatical Officers

Becky Howe – President

Hey everyone,

Hope you're doing well! Here's some highlights from my past two weeks:

- Last Friday, the government **\*\*finally\*\*** released their Green Paper – called 'Fulfilling our potential: teaching excellence, social mobility and student choice'. There's some stuff in it that we're really, really concerned about, and we'll be constructing our response over the next few weeks, in consultation with students.
- OUSU's **Trustee Board** had our **strategy away-day** late in 3<sup>rd</sup> week. At this meeting, we discussed and proposed the **strategic objectives of OUSU for the next five years**. When we've finalised these objectives, we'll be sharing them with you. I'm really excited!
- Last week I went to the **meeting of common room OUSU reps**, which was brill as I got to hear what your OUSU reps think we could be doing better, and to just generally chat about what's going on in your common rooms.
- Loads more **university committees**. They are a big part of my life, bigger almost than sleeping. Last week was University Council (like the Governing Body of the university) and this week I've got another big committee, Planning and Resource Allocation Committee.
- This weekend, I **fulfilled part 1 of one of my pledges**. I pledged to hold **training for common room presidents every term** – the Michaelmas one was this Saturday. Sixteen presidents came – considering they're some of the busiest people in Oxford, I was so so pleased so many could spend a day with us! The feedback I've got was really encouraging – **100% said they'd recommend it to their successor**; 81% said the day was 'very useful', and the remaining 19% said it was 'useful'. We got some really helpful comments that will enable us to make Hilary and Trinity training days even better!
- Elections are in full swing! I chaired Sunday night's husting at Merton JCR, thanks for a great turnout and some important questions!
- Lastly, on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November, I went with 45 Oxford students to the **national demo against the abolition of maintenance grants**. It was an incredible day, until the police happened. Thanks so much to everyone who came, and massive solidarity to our two students who were kettled.

With love and hugs,  
Becky x

## Emily Silcock – VP Charities and Community

Hi council,

It's been a busy couple of week at OUSU towers. I hope you're all doing well, but take some time to look after yourself this week.

### RAG

RAG has taken up a lot of my time over the last couple of weeks. We've had the RAG ball and LOST, which have both gone smoothly (very much due to fantastic student teams on both). We've had dinner and training for the charity reps. I've also recruited two new interns who will be providing a pack of resources for Common Room charity reps over the vac. We've started work on the RAG parade which is happening next term. We're now recruiting leaders on this, so get in touch if you're interested.

### Christmas friends

I'm running a scheme to match students with local families for Christmas Day. It's a nightmare to risk assess, but I'm hoping to start taking sign ups by the end of this week, but in the meantime feel free to get in contact if you're interested.

### Environment and sustainability

Last week I ran training for Common Room E&E reps, which was rated 8.6 out of 10 on average. I've also been working with the University to look at the possibility of a Student Sustainability fund, to give grants to student environmental projects. I've been to an away day with the British Heart Foundation to see how we can collect even more items for them this year. Finally, Fairlie has done an absolutely fabulous job of running #VeggiePledge - last time I checked we had nearly 600 pledges.

### Campaigns

Living Wage Campaign won an award from the Living Wage Foundation for the amazing work they've done across the last year. Last week was Homelessness awareness week and also Living Wage week, both of which went swimmingly. Living Wage also has a new chair and On Your Doorstep are having elections for a new chair next week. Finally, E&E did a fabulous action with pumpkins.

As always, you can email me at [vpcandc@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vpcandc@ousu.ox.ac.uk)

## Nick Cooper – VP Graduates

Evening, Council! I hope 5<sup>th</sup> week is treating you well – all exciting times in the office as we await elections (don't forget to vote – especially grads, where the turnout has a habit of being lousy) and keep the clock ticking towards Christmas. Here's an account of what I've been up to: please ask questions in Council or email me if you want more detail (a likely story...):

- **Student Written Submission** – This is still progressing, but is going well. Cat and I met with the Quality Assurance Agency, the Government agency that will be conducting the review. We have also been incorporating comments we've received into the document (particular thanks to CRAE [the Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality] for a really useful meeting, and the Oxford Students' Disability Community for their

engagement). We've attached a copy of the latest version to the Council agenda.

**Please have a read before next week, if you want to influence what we say about the university's academic provisions.** We'll then bring a final copy to 7<sup>th</sup> week Council for your agreement.

- **Attempting to do manifesto pledges** – Michaelmas Term is an opportunity to build relationships and make sure people in the University are clear what you plan to do during your term of office. (an elaborate way of saying: none of them are done yet). As part of this, we're meeting two of the four Heads of Division today, and will meet the others later in the term – a really good opportunity to stress our priorities for the year. I've been taking the opportunity to gather data on Masters-level satisfaction and on co-supervision arrangements, with a view to pushing for better provision in Hilary Term. More to come here.
- **International Students** – we had a really useful first meeting of our International Students Campaign, and now have a new committee, which is great. The Campaign will be working on issues around visas and immigration, and ensuring international students have the same experience as UK students. If you want to get involved, please get in touch – or come along to our next meeting on **Sunday at 3pm, Keble!**
- **Committees** – it's been a fairly quiet fortnight for these, for once. We did have University Council (top of the pile), but it was fairly brief because the agenda item on the Green Paper didn't happen. By the time Council has met, I'll have sat on the Graduate Committee of Conference of Colleges (meeting of all the Tutors for Graduates), and the wonderful Joint Sub-committee of Education Committee with Student Members (JScECSM), which discusses OUSU's relationship with the University. I've put a paper in proposing a discussion about giving OUSU votes on the committees we sit on (currently we can attend but not vote; although votes are rare, they're usually on important things). More to follow.

I've also acquired a new committee – Building and Estates Subcommittee. Boom.

- **Helping Common Rooms** – Along with Cat, I helped Becky with the Common Room Presidents' training this week, enjoying a roleplay in my new life as a Catering and Conferences Manager. Other than this, after some delay, I got round to sending round to Graduate Common Room Presidents a form to gather data on common room & college provision. These data will be really useful for all graduate Common Rooms, and I'll be collating these at the end of term.
- **OUSU internal stuff** – Continuing my job as Mr Muscle (not based on my gym performance, but in terms of loving the jobs people hate), I've been looking into OUSU's governance with one of our External Trustees. It's very long, and I'm hoping we can condense it. I've also met our new Social Sciences Divisional Board representative, attended a meeting on our Trustee Board, and helped out as part of our Elections Committee. **It was sad to see the four graduate Part Time Executive positions without any candidates ☹ Please consider running in Hilary Term!**

- **Wrote a piece for Cherwell**, answering No to the debate “Is OUSU a waste of resources?” Read it, and hopefully you’ll agree we’re not! (plus if you’re now reading my report because of my plug in the piece, hello!)

As ever, please send me any thoughts, questions or complaints. See you in 7<sup>th</sup> week, when another term of Councils will be over...

Nick

Cat Jones – VP Access and Academic Affairs

## **Suspended Status**

The campaign is up and running!! Our launch meeting took place last week and was really well attended by a mix of students with personal experience of suspending and many with welfare and representation roles. It has been agreed that Kate Cole will Chair the campaign, which will be structured to include different working groups focusing on; information provision, college policies, and helping returning students to reintegrate. Search “SusCam” on Facebook to like the page and be kept up to date.

## **Target Schools**

I attended the first Target Schools Campaign meeting of term on Sunday. Congratulations to the newly elected co-chairs. I will be working with them to produce resources to help all access reps to run road trips to their college link regions. I will also be building a database to help match current undergraduates to the road trip taking place in their home region. This will vastly increase our reach as a student body engaged in access work.

## **Maintenance Grants**

In first week council we passed a motion condemning the government plans to abolish maintenance grants and mandating me to oppose them. In third week council this was followed by a mandate to organise transport to the #GrantsNotDebt demonstration in London. We organised £2 return transport, which was used by 42 Oxford students. Myself, Becky (President) and Lucy (VP Women) also joined the demo and gave an interview to BBC radio 1.

## **Committees**

A big part of my job is representing you in numerous meeting and committees. Much of what is discussed is covered by confidentiality agreements but I will continue to list here, in each council report, the meetings I have attended on your behalf.

OUSU Trustee Board; Higher Education Review Meeting; Proctors Office Meeting; Gender, Ethnicity and Attainment Group; Elections Committee; Joint Subcommittee of Education Committee with Student Members

Ali Lennon – VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities

Dear Council,

This past fortnight I've been:

- Working with the Chief Executive and the Manager of the Student Advice Service to hire a new advisor. This has meant lots of interviewing and lots of application reading.
- Working on how best to inform and support students, especially common room officers on how to handle Prevent related issues. I've sent out a rather substantial briefing note which is a dull read but very important. Any questions on this subject get in touch sooner rather than later.
- Working on supporting common room officers with negotiations concerning suspended status policy and procedure.
- Working closely with the Director of Student Welfare and Support Services on a number of student welfare issues within the university.
- Working with Sexpression on HIV awareness week. We've joined forces and the STI screening event ran jointly by OUSU and the NHS will now be part of their series of events. OUSU will also be aiding with publicity on this fantastic series of events.
- Working with the Sub-Committee for Student Health and Welfare. It was agreed that University will create a brand new Mental Health Policy! OUSU will be heavily involved in this process and I've been added to the working group in charge of this project.
- Working with the University on some difficult issues. I've been added to a working group which will reexamine how the University responds to student tragedies.
- Working on lots of little things and responding to all manner of enquiries from students, staff, and others. If you have sent me an email, apologies for the delay in getting back to you. I promise I'll get to it as soon as I can.

If you have any questions or comments feel free to email me using [vpweo@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vpweo@ousu.ox.ac.uk) although forgive me if my response is not immediate.

Yours Faithfully,

Ali

Lucy Delaney – VP Women

This week I have been continuing writing a set of guidelines for colleges regarding the organisation of consent and race workshops, so that they are run smoothly and so that consent workshops are never prioritised over race workshops.

I am also starting the preparation for launching the Women's Leadership Development Programme next term, as well as other leadership schemes.

I have continued to work closely with my campaigns- I have been helping It Happens Here with their art exhibition on sexual violence, A Bad Kiss, which is taking place Wednesday-Friday in St. John's College. An amazing amount of work has gone into this. WomCam is also doing well and has just elected a whole new committee!

I have also been doing some admin to lay the groundwork for more campaign coalition work – collecting data on accessible rooms and trying to compile information on which colleges have which liberation officers, so that collaboration between liberation groups can be made easier.

### **Part-Time Executive Officers**

#### **Sam Shearn – Student Parents and Carers Officer**

Today we had a student parent get-together at a café. Alongside answering various student queries, the main focus of the last two weeks was finishing off the second, expanded edition of the briefing Helping Pregnant Students in advance of the Hardship Funding Review. The second edition focuses also on the practicality and cost of maternity leave and childcare support, based on student parent survey results.

I have also begun to prepare work on a student parent college guide, which will highlight the discrepancy between colleges' student parent provision. Some have childcare bursaries and a playground, others pretend you don't exist!

I have also started to properly publicise the student carers email list, and student carers facebook group. I hope that within a few weeks I will have made first contact with student carers.

#### **Jenny Walker – LGBTQ Officer**

I've had a very busy few weeks so not much new going on for me! The LGBTQ Campaign ran a lovely badge making event the other day, and they're running a fundraising event for the Albert Kennedy Trust soon. The BME rep also set up a BME LGBTQ group, which has a facebook group. I've also been finding out which colleges have gender neutral toilets in order to help colleges without them lobby for them. I've also helped reps with bits and bobs and chatted to people who are interested in running for my role this term.

#### **Minerva Lim – International Students' Officer**

Dear Council, it's been an exciting few weeks for international students with the formation of the brand-new International Students' Campaign committee! After last Sunday, we have now got an elected Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and various committee positions - the Committee will be seeking to raise awareness on a variety of international student issues especially welfare in Oxford and detrimental legislation implemented by the UK government. Their next meeting will be on **Sunday, 15 Nov, 3-5pm, venue TBC**. Please come along if you're interested to get involved in international student issues, and as ever, write to me at [intstudents@ox.ac.uk](mailto:intstudents@ox.ac.uk) if you're keen to take up a committee position or if you have anything regarding international students on your mind.

Joe Reason – Common Room Support Officer

Hey Council,

Hope all is going well. Over the past couple of weeks I have held the first of this term's OUSU rep meetings which went really well and we had a good turn out. Next one will be on Tuesday 6th week at St Catz so if you are an OUSU Rep it would be great to see you there.

I have also started working on my final manifesto pledge that I have yet to achieve: to provide training and support in the new voting system (something which I have been unable to work on until this term). I have spoken with Becky, OUSU president about this and am moving forwards with discussions with Ami, one of the staff at OUSU. Keep your eyes peeled for this.

I have also met for my scrutiny meeting to discuss how things have been going this term - my last one as Common Room Support Officer.

If you have any questions or anything you think I should get on before the end of my term in office, let me know

OUSU love  
Joe

Nikhil Venkatesh – Black and Minority Ethnic Students Officer

I have continued to work on fighting the implementation of Prevent in the university: this has included meetings with academics and other students, and attending and helping with the briefing for common rooms led by the VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities. Publicising and explaining Council's policy on Prevent (passed at the last meeting) is critically important as we try to ensure that students are protected from this dangerous legislation.

I outlined Council's position on Prevent at a meeting of the Equality and Diversity Panel. This is the highest level university group on which I sit in my role as BME Students Officer, and was meeting primarily to discuss preparations for the Race Equality Charter Mark process. (Many thanks to the VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities and the former VP Women for advocating my inclusion on this panel.) The university has decided to postpone its application for the Charter Mark to 2017, which is disappointing and reflects how far Oxford and British universities in general still have to go on race equality. The Panel saw new data on ethnicity among staff and students here and the picture is still not a good one. However, the Panel recognises this and is full of people who are committed to moving forwards on race equality. Email me for more details.

Yesterday (but after I wrote this report) was the first meeting of the new Race Equality Working Group. Email me for details, if you'd like to join the group or would like to know what we discussed or what the outcomes of the discussion were.

I am pleased to see that there is a candidate nominated to stand for election to succeed me as BME Students Officer. A lot of projects that OUSU officers work on cannot be accomplished within one year and so handover and continuity are crucially important.

Also, I'm doing the #VeggiePledge! Not eaten meat for eleven days by the time you read this.

Rita Nissim – Graduate Welfare Officer

Hi OUSU Council!

So the main thing I have been up to since you last heard from me is helping a couple of MCRs who are interested in introducing morning after pill reimbursement schemes 😊 Have also been organising WelfCom – a meeting for all MCR Welfare Officers that will be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November. Last but not least, I had a great meeting with your Graduate Women's Officer and we're coming up with some ideas on things to do before term ends 😊

As always, don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions/issues! Email me at [gradwelfare@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:gradwelfare@ousu.ox.ac.uk)!

Rita

Will Brown – Clubs and Societies Officer

I continued responding to students' email queries about clubs and societies, and providing guidance/advice.

I met with Becky to discuss our plans for the rest of term. We agreed that establishing an online platform for clubs and societies is a must. We also discussed plans for the festival event.

I have nearly completed drafting the survey about clubs and societies, which should be being sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Lindsay Lee – Disabled Students' Officer

Since last council, I have released the list of resources compiled from the Disability, Sex and Relationship Workshop in 2nd week to the people who registered on the Eventbrite. If you are interested in this list, let me know, and I can send it to you! I will be working on getting these resources integrated into OUSU so that it is easily accessible for the future. I also will be working on getting common rooms to have the information available for colleges.

While it's not directly OUSU related, this past Friday and Saturday was the Herbert Smith Freehills Oxford Disability Mooting Championship and Conversazione, which I help organize. We had about 200 people come, and it was an incredible day discussing the intersections of disability, the law, and the media. As a result of this event, Wadham College has taken steps to become more accessible. Events like this are so important to bring attention to disability issues, both academically and otherwise.

As always, email me at [disability@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:disability@ousu.ox.ac.uk) with any questions!

Rebecca Kuperberg – Graduate Womens’ Officer

Hello, Council!

Over the past two weeks, I have narrowed down the projects I hope to complete before the end of Michaelmas and have begun to work on them. I plan to focus on the following four projects: collecting information on MCR training and elections to pass onto OUSU (along with Rita- VP for Graduate Welfare), providing sexual health information to complement contraceptives in MCRs, increase information about workshop facilitators and provide a forum for support and dialogue among facilitators, and have discussions with departments regarding trigger warnings and safe spaces in the academic context.

I have been in touch with one department for a trigger warning discussion and hope to have that scheduled for the end of this term or the start of next term. Depending on how this event goes, this can be replicated in other departments. I hope to continue to work on these workshops throughout medical sciences, social sciences, and humanities, or pass along an outline to my successor.

I have also written a first draft of a sexual health pamphlet and have begun to collect election and training information for MCRs, along with Rita. Ultimately, we would like to determine when MCR welfare and women's officers are elected, as we predict that many miss Trinity training programs. Once we collect the information, we will present it to OUSU to ensure that trainings remain available for both JCR and MCR officers.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please reach out!

Stephanie Kelley – Womens’ Campaign Officer

Midway through term and WomCam is proceeding along very well! In fourth week, we teamed up with On Your Doorstep during Homelessness Awareness Week and had an event at St Catz about female homelessness and how austerity is a feminist issue. We heard from both Miranda Miller, who wrote a heavily-researched book of interviews with homeless women in London, and Clare Ellis, who spoke of her and her family’s personal struggle with homelessness in Oxford. All in all, the event was very moving and seemed to stir many of its attendees to action! A huge well done to Sophie of On Your Doorstep for spearheading its organization and ensuring that resources on homelessness were made available for all after the event.

By the time of Council, WomCam will have held its Monday event of elections from 5-7 PM and then a workshop on the intersection of ableism and sexism from 7-9 PM (Four straight hours of WomCam!!). The majority of empty positions on committee will hopefully be full, though I’ve seen that no one is running for my position (Women’s Campaign Officer) in OUSU elections – if anyone is interested in this or wants to chat more about it, happy to respond to emails at [womensofficer@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:womensofficer@ousu.ox.ac.uk).

Otherwise, we’re proceeding with organising events for 6<sup>th</sup> week (Trans Day of Remembrance is on Friday of 6<sup>th</sup>!), 7<sup>th</sup> week (how climate change is a feminist issue), the NUS Women’s

Campaign self care workshop (Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 6-8 PM), and a screening of the domestic violence documentary Private Violence in 8<sup>th</sup> week.

Gareth Sessel – Academic Affairs Officer

Hello council. I attended the suspended student campaign launch meeting on the 29th October. I look forward to getting more involved in this important campaign. I would also like to put procedures in place to improve digital feedback from surveys distributed by OUSU. As always, please feel free to email me with suggestions, ideas and comments:

[academicaffairs@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:academicaffairs@ousu.ox.ac.uk)

Danny Waldman – Rent and Accommodation Officer

Hello Council!

Feeling fully recovered now and so firing on all cylinders. This week I met with Becky to plan out our joint projects for the rest of the term - we will be producing a booklet on issues surrounding rent negotiations with colleges, and are now chasing up the last of the Common Room Presidents who have yet to reply to our questionnaire getting information about the rent situation in their colleges. We will also be gathering case studies of successful negotiations and putting these together. We will also be preparing a rent training day, to happen early Hilary, towards the end of this term, which will cover several topics (strategy, negotiation tactics, putting a team together etc.) and hopefully get in some of the ex-Presidents who did particularly well with their negotiations to give first-hand advice. I was also going to be meeting with Emily & Ali to discuss plans of action to tackle the wider problem of lack of housing and exploitative landlords in Oxford but sadly we couldn't arrange a date - I hope to do this soon (probably pre-Council if the sabs have time!). I've got a bit of catch-up to do after being unwell but hopefully will get it all back on track now - R&A love x

Elliot Parrott – Trans Officer

I have been continuing to liaise with various people on organising the planned Trans Day of Remembrance service at Hertford and strategising how best to publicise this in liberation campaigns such as WomCam and the LGBTQ Campaign. I've also continued to look for all the relevant (and surprisingly elusive) data on the varying policies and guidelines that different colleges have with regards to trans people in their communities.

Marina Lambrakis – Graduate Academic Affairs Officer

Hi Council!

It's been a relatively quiet couple of weeks for me - I attended Research Committee at the end of 3rd week, where we discussed lots of interesting things, including the University's strategic aims in terms of research and innovation, and public engagement with research (and how graduate students can contribute to this). As a result of this, I'm now in talks with the representatives of early career researchers on Research Committee, to see what scope there is for us to work together, as often many of our interests overlap. Apart from this, I've been

having issues with my work, so haven't really had the chance to do much more.

As ever, you can get contact me on [gradacaff@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:gradacaff@ousu.ox.ac.uk) - if you're thinking of running to take over from me in 1st week Hilary Council, then please do get in touch!

Marina

Henna Shah – Access and Admissions Officer

Hi Council! I've been up to loads of stuff over the past couple of weeks, mainly to do with the Refugee Campaign. We passed our first motion through Oriol JCR on Sunday, and are currently in the process of training reps to pass motions through more common rooms. On Saturday I attended the Student Action for Refugees (STAR) conference which was really useful in terms on highlighting the issues we need to focus on, as well as connecting us with other students across the country who are also campaigning on these issues. Please get in touch if you are interested in either a) lending your expertise to the committee (and then I can do more other stuff!!) and/or b) passing a motion through your common room.

In other news, I've been meeting Cat to discuss our plans for the term and how I can best support her, which is going really well. I attended my scrutiny interview which was really good, and helped me reprioritise for the rest of my term. I've also set a date (20th Nov) to meet with the ACS President and Access Officer to discuss how we could make shadowing days through them a regular occurrence. Hopefully I can then discuss this with Target Schools to put a plan in place for the future.

As per usual, any qs/comments drop me an email or facebook message

Henna xx

p.s. access rep forum is coming in 7th week - please ask your JCR access officers to keep an eye out for a email about this during this week, and to let me know if they haven't been receiving them

Yoni Stone – Community Outreach and Charities Officer

Hi council, Univ JCR has now passed Pint for a Pint which is brilliant news and hopefully more will do so soon, but this leaves a lot of JCRs/MCRs which are not getting involved so let me know if you're interested! Alongside this, I am also in contact with NHS Blood and Transplant about a Know Your Type event for later this term which should be great!

Fairlie Kirkpatrick Baird – Environment and Ethics Officer

Hi Council!

This week I've still been focussing on Veggie Pledge, which launched in 4<sup>th</sup> week. We've had over 600 pledges so far and the final count may be over 700, although I have yet to add up the final totals. I think overall it has been very successful; there has been a lot of activity on the group discussing the best ways to be vegetarian or vegan and helping people who are

attempting to cut out meat or dairy from their diets for the first time. I'm currently working on organising a final meal in 7<sup>th</sup> week that will hopefully unite some of the pledgers for a big vegan meal so they can talk about how it went and hopefully get some more feedback on what the pledgers thought of the scheme. I'm also working with Emily to produce a report that tries to measure the campaign's impact and notes what was successful and what was less so in order that next Michaelmas's E&E PTE is able to run the campaign even more successfully if they want to.

### **Divisional Board Representatives**

#### Jacob Page – Graduate MPLS

It's been a quiet couple of weeks and I have only attended the MPLS Graduate School Committee. However lots of interesting debates took place in this committee and I am happy to report that confirmation of status will now be standardized across the division and will include a panel interview which will both examine and advise, putting students in the best position possible to write up their thesis. Furthermore due to an excess of Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) funding the division will be setting up 6 "Excellence" awards to provide full funding for the 6 best candidates applying to departments in the division. After suggesting that these grants could be used to increase access for women, BME and low income students, the committee unanimously agreed that after the criteria for "excellence" had been met allocation of the grants would take socioeconomic background into account.

#### Greg Auger – Undergraduate MPLS

3rd week meant MPLS library committee. There has been a huge drop in undergrads attending RSL inductions - we have asked the library to look into why. In other news, the Bod are going to put together a proposal for how to significantly revamp the RSL. They think only 30% of the space will be used for traditional library purposes, though there are many different ideas about how to put the remaining 70% to good use. Their proposal probably won't come back to us as DivReps, but Cat and Nick will be keeping an eye through their role as curators of the Bodleian to see that the plans benefit students and don't result in loss of valued work space.

I also attended the MPLS Access and Admissions Panel. Some things are going to have to change if the university is to make progress on its targets relating to access (though apparently we're doing better than the other place). A review is taking place of the UNIQ Summer Schools (though everyone are big fans).

#### Hayley Han – Postgraduate Medical Sciences

I don't have much to report this week. I am waiting on the list of emails of departmental reps. Once I have that, I'm planning on arranging a meeting with them to discuss what we plan to do this year.

## Eden Bailey – Postgraduate Humanities

Most of the big committee meetings this term are squeezed towards the last few weeks, but in the meantime I've had a very productive one-to-one meeting with the new Associate Head to the Division, Karen Leeder. We had a discussion about curricular diversity, and in particular how we can support not just research in subjects outside of generally dead, white, Western men. A key concern about curricular diversity when it has been brought to faculties has been that though they support the principle, they say that they do not have the staff qualified to teach a broader range of topics from that which is currently on offer. We discussed how we could actually facilitate graduate students and early career academics to run courses and give teaching in these areas. We also discussed the possibility of visiting scholars not just giving lectures, but actually giving lectures on topics that students could choose to undertake as a paper for taught courses (both undergrad, and masters).

If you have any thoughts or questions about this, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me, at [pg-humanities@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:pg-humanities@ousu.ox.ac.uk)!

## **OUSU Campaigns**

### Chris Williams – Raise and Give (RAG)

Oxford RAG has now successfully run two big events this term, the RAG Ball and Lost. The RAG Ball has, as always, raised the awareness of our campaign and ensured that many of the University's new students have heard of Oxford RAG. Lost, our brand new event, which is very similar to Jailbreak but in reverse, has at the time of writing raised over £8,000. This is expected to raise a minimum of £11,000 and could raise as much as £15,000.

Looking ahead we have a few more events this term including a Secret Party, the Oxmas Party, Formal Hall Surfing and Transition Ski Festival. We have also begun sign ups for our Machu Pichu trek and this appears to be more popular than the Kilimanjaro trek last year. This trek should raise the society at least £30,000. Plans for Jailbeak have also commenced and the team is working hard to beat the total raised last year. The same can be said for the Amsterdam trip, where Oxford RAG and Cambridge RAG are aiming to send at least 500 students to the city.

The RAG Network is continuing to expand and is working with a number of students to help them raise money for their favourite charities. Notable partnerships include the work we have been doing with the Oxford Book Club, with the highly anticipated Pink Week and with Giving What We Can's Big Match Fortnight.

Other aspects of RAG, such as our RAIDs and Casino, our continuing to work in great conjunction with the rest of society and should raise similar amounts of money for our four charities as previous years.

### Sam Pugh – Oxford Students' Disability Community

Ronak Patel (OSDC LGBTQ and BME Rep) is attending on behalf of OSDC and has the OSDC Vote.

Tom Wadsworth (OSDC College Disability Reps Officer) is also attending in his capacity as St. John's Disability Rep, but in the event Ronak is unable to attend then the OSDC Vote goes to Tom.

- We talked about creating the position of OSDC BME Rep last term, but there was some confusion over whether the disability reps for the other liberation campaigns were de facto reps on our committee as all positions are currently held by OSDC committee members. We have clarified this and the role is being held by Ronak Patel and Jessie See until our first elections.
- We have also created and filled the role of International Student Rep, which is being held by Penny Pan until our first elections.
- We have also decided to create the roles of Class/Access Rep and Suspended Students Rep. We are in the process of fleshing out what these roles will entail and we will be advertising these roles for election in Hilary Term (hopefully).
- We're hoping to collaborate with Rhodes Must Fall on future protests/projects so we can help make these more accessible. The campaign is strongly in support of Rhodes Must Fall but traditional protest style events are often very inaccessible for a range of conditions and disabilities. We're really interested in finding ways we can continue to support the campaign and we're hoping to get in touch soon to discuss this :)
- We're just starting to get our 'Social Sidekick' project up and running. We have a number of volunteers (so far just from the committee) who are offering to accompany OSDC members to our socials and, if they want, to stay with them once they arrive to help ease them into the social. The aim is to try and increase accessibility by giving people who are apprehensive about attending the option to have a buddy with the idea that this may help them feel more comfortable and less isolated. We want to make it really casual so it is just like going to the social with a friend. If it works then we'd be really interested in seeing if we could roll it out across the board and get it added as a suggestion to Ali's accessible events document.
- We're working on our contribution to the Student Written Submission [may have questions to ask]
- We're currently compiling a list of committee position outlines ready for our elections, and so we all have a clear idea of what each role is.
- We're beginning to compile a list of disability specific resources - things that are absolutely not common knowledge and only people with a specific disability might find useful (e.g. contact details for John Radcliffe Audiology Department, Hearing Clinic times, how to get hearing aid batteries from your GP), and we're hoping to make a centralised resource list available on our website (this will likely be an ongoing project + constantly being added to and updated).

## Report to Council from the Trustee Board – Eden Tanner, Student Trustee

16<sup>th</sup> June

### **Prevent**

Discussion was had around the implementation of the ‘Prevent’ duty, which stems from the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. The Board received advice that it was necessary to implement, but was later informed, by the NUS and others, that this was not the case, and so the implementation was withdrawn.

### **Complaints Procedure**

A new Complaints Procedure has been drafted to better suit the needs of students, and to ease the burden of External Trustees. At this stage it’s still in draft form and a report will come back explaining its elements in due course. The primary change will be the dissolution of the Complaints Committee, in favour of a Student Trustee (Complaints) managing any incoming complaints, and convening panels where necessary.

### **Statutory Election Timing**

The outcome of the referenda (in which those participating opted to move the cross-campus elections to Hilary Term) was endorsed by the Board, and the President was authorised to consult and negotiate agreements with the University.

### **Long term strategy**

It was decided that the Board of Trustees needed to have a strategy day to reconsider OUSU’s values, missions, and aims and think about the next three years, especially with respect to staff and budgeting. It was noted that there is currently too much for the CEO to complete, and if they were to fall ill or otherwise need time off, there is no back up. A strategy day has since been held, and work will be ongoing on this.

29<sup>th</sup> October

### **CEO’s report**

Amelia, the CEO, reported to the Board an update on the CEO Strategy that she is pursuing. Barney Willis, our newest Student Trustee, was elected to Finance Committee, and Eden Tanner was elected to Risk Committee. The Board also agreed to the creation of a Membership Services Manager post.

### **Sabbatical Officer’s Report**

The Sabbatical Officers reported to the Board what work had been completed over the Summer – this is very similar to their reports to Council.

### **By-election of Student Trustees**

The Board agreed to co-opt two student trustees (as we will agree to five at the General Meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, but that will be after the Statutory elections.).

### **'Safer'**

The Board gave support to work being done by VP (WEO), Ali Lennon, on his work with the Student Advice Service and Drug Science on Harm Minimisation.

### **Review of OUSU Council**

Nick Cooper presented a review of Council. The Board discussed more digital democratic engagement, and will continue to review what format best serves the needs of students (the possibility of one-student-one-vote, for example).