

**Vice-President (Finance)**  
**Steph Gray**

This point of the year is always something of a 'late surge' for the V-P(F), as loose ends are tied up and plans put in place for the following year. As such, there still hasn't been much let-up from those 12-hour days...

Publications I've been making preparations for the Freshers' Guide, Oxford Handbook, Oxford Directory and several other publications. These all seem to be progressing smoothly, with good Editors in place and competitive printing quotes on the table. The Careers Handbook should be a particular success this year, with outsourced design work taking some of the pressure off my successor by removing the responsibility for flightchecking multi-thousand pound adverts. Said adverts appear to be arriving on target, which should underpin the assumptions of the Budget being presented to this Council.

Finance Following a Council mandate, I've looked into the management of the OUSU reserves and re-arranged the bulk of our reserves into higher interest-bearing Bonds, still with the Co-op (and under the same ethical criteria). This should net an increase in annual interest received of considerably more than £1000. The Budget has also taken time, as I have tried to make predictions as accurate as possible. I urge as many people as possible to read the Budget document and ask me questions, as it's the best way to understand OUSU's finances and hold OUSU officers to account.

Maintenance These are exciting times to be office furniture. The OUSU General Office has just had CCTV installed (following a Council mandate), new furniture (following the Amended Budget), and replacement of a leased photocopier with an altogether more reliable model. The new OUSU van, on contract hire, is due to arrive next week, halting the drain on OUSU's finances which is the aging OUSU van. Two dangerous electrical faults have been repaired this week, and I am investigating the options for improving lighting in the main work areas.

**Vice-President (Women)**  
**Blumer**

**Jane**

The last two weeks have been spent doing various things. Firstly, the Women's Open Day, held last Saturday, was a huge success - many thanks to those who gave up time to help, though no thanks at all to the porters of some colleges who gave the visitors a very bad impression. From feedback, it seems that most of those who attended the day, mainly scientists, will make an application to Oxford. The response to the day was also very positive, demonstrating that although there may be parity between men and women when they get here, there are many factors which deter women from applying in the first place - the Women's Open Day is still a valuable part of the applications process.

Work on publicity for the Eating Distress group has been continuing - many thanks to those colleges which have donated money to the group.

The Nightbus continues to run, with an average of 25-30 people using it most nights. The schedule is now set for the rest of term, so it should all go smoothly (fingers crossed).

Women's Committee discussions are still being held - Monday 6th and 8th week, 5:30 in the Larkin Room, St. John's. The next discussion will focus on 'Reclaiming spaces'. To this end, I have also been out photographing cats in quads across Oxford. Women's Cttee has also had a turnover of co-chairs - Jo Briggs (Wadham) and Leah Zeto (Corpus) have stepped down, and Emily Hooker (St. Catz) and Eleanor Fletcher (Wadham) have been elected in their places. Many thanks to Jo and Leah for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Other things - have carried boxes, delivered handbooks, done casework, attended University meetings, sat on pubs board etc.

**Vice-President (Graduates)**

**Nick Smith**

I have attended meetings of University Council, Educational Policy and Standards Committee (and a separate meeting of the graduate panel), Tutors for Graduates Committee, Proctors and Assessor with JCR and MCR Presidents.

**EPSC**

The afforded graduate panel met to discuss appropriate strategies for precipitating more widespread consultations with interested bodies on the propositions set out in Dr Ostle's report on graduate provision in the collegiate university. In the absence of a mechanism for University-College collaboration on graduate studies within the new

governance structure, the panel itself will play a key role in interfacing between the Divisions, Colleges, and central administration and in co-ordinating further discussion, bearing in mind that it has been charged to report on its progress to Council in Michaelmas term. Divisions will shortly be receiving a communication from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Academic requesting information pertaining to the section of the report dealing with facilities provision within the Divisions. The report has also received initial consideration at the standing committee of the Conference of Colleges and will certainly be a major item on the agenda of both this committee and those of its subordinate committees.

#### Tutors for Graduates

The committee reaffirmed its objection to any shortening of library hours, and a letter stating the committee's position will be sent to the relevant officers.

A discussion of supervisors' reports and the college advisor system revealed wide disparities in practice (a fact that is being reflected in the OUSU graduate survey), which was a grave concern to the committee and will be flagged for the attention of EPSC.

#### Graduate Survey

At the time of writing, 341 responses to the online graduate survey have been received. The survey seeks feedback from graduates on finances, accommodation, college and academic life, and OUSU's services. Comments have been constructive in the main but reveal widespread frustration with the quality of supervision and lack of feedback, and the discrepancies in college and faculty provision. OUSU will use the survey results (which will be particularly useful to ongoing discussions vis-a-vis graduate study at Oxford) to review its own services for graduates and to target specific areas of graduate concern, both within the union and the University.

#### Divisional reps

A meeting is scheduled with the graduate divisional reps to discuss emerging structures relating to graduate studies within the divisions, the possibility of attendance on graduate sub-committees, and practices regarding contribution to the costs of printing and binding doctoral theses.

#### Other

I have attended meetings of OSSL and Pubs board, dealt with the usual email correspondence and helped with deliveries. I also ferried students attending the Women's Open day to north Oxford colleges in the nightbus.

<b>Vice-President (Access and Academic Affairs)</b>
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<b>Rhodri Thomas</b>
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#### **Access**

I have prepared a joint report on access and admissions with the Co-ordinators of the Oxford Access Scheme. The report will be presented to the Admissions Executive in 7<sup>th</sup> week and hopefully some progress on access and admissions will be made. The report is heavily based on the Admissions Working Party report.

The arrangements for the Target Schools open days are continuing. The second open day is being held in New College this Saturday and we have over 200 teachers and pupils attending. We are also writing to a selection of schools inviting them to the St Peter's open day in 9<sup>th</sup> week.

I have also produced a Target Schools newsletter that is basically a report on the work of the scheme. It is gone to the printers and will be sent out in the next week or so.

I have also spent a lot of time writing my handover report for my successor and preparing a guide to being a Target Schools Co-Chair. We are looking for new co-chairs for next year - anyone interested please get in touch with me.

#### **Academic Affairs**

I have dealt with casework relating to exams and exam related stress.

Arrangements are also being made for the election of new Divisional Board Representatives in 6<sup>th</sup> week Academic Affairs Committee. If you are interested please get in touch with me.

A lot of the other work on Academic Affairs is basically completing all of the small projects and research. I am awaiting final comments on my report on increasing academic support for students and once these are received the report will be taken to EPSC. I am also preparing a briefing on penal collections and work on the Student Charter is continuing.

I have also attended lots of University committee meetings which have generally been productive and useful.