



Emma Norris
President

Socially Responsible Investment

Finally good news for OUSU's Socially Responsible Investment campaign: a resolution similar to our report to University Council was due for discussion in Congregation next Tuesday. However, on Monday University Council withdrew their opposition to the call for credible SRI policy. This means the resolution automatically passes and binds the University to the following:

- * Take a firm pro-SRI stance
- * Take action to sort out its current incoherent SRI policy and practices
- * Stop pretending that the Good Corporation Charter is an SRI policy
- * Establish a Joint Committee on Socially Responsible Investment
- * Get advice from independent SRI consultants on their options
- * Publish details of its investments and periodically report on its SRI progress

This policy applies to the £400 million the central University invests, but college policy is unaffected. For this reason the campaign will continue until all colleges have adopted similar SRI policy.

Student Contract

There is also good news on the student contract: after consultation with common rooms and lawyers, OUSU drafted three major changes to the draft student-college contract. These were:

1. To guarantee first year accommodation for all first year students
2. To commit to student consultation before any changes in fees and charges, and to commit to not *significantly* deviate from the fees and charges advertised in the most prospectuses.
3. To provide the departmental norm number of tutorials/classes.

Conference of Colleges have confirmed this week that they are now accepting these changes, and are having their lawyer insert them into the existing contract. This means the contract will actually be an empowering document for students, providing legal guarantees in relation to accommodation, fees and teaching that did not previously exist.

Hardship / rent

Rent negotiations are now well underway in most colleges, as is the campaign against further rises. A petition highlighting the financial difficulties rent rises cause students, signed by 2000 students, was presented to Andrew Smith MP (East Oxford) last week, who then formally presented it to the House of Commons.

Common room reps also have access to a comprehensive report detailing the cases against rent rises, and comparative college statistics.

Strong campaigning backed up by more detailed papers is having an effect in many colleges, with some offering substantial changes to hardship systems. One of the most efficient systems in used by Somerville, who provide sliding-scale automatic grants to all students on some kind of fee remission. Any common room interested in implementing such a system should get in touch for more information.

NUS referendum

The referendum will be online from next Thursday, for four days. Please advertise this so get can equal the turnout of the earlier sub-fusc poll.

Chris Allan

V-P (Finance)

In the 12 weeks since I last wrote a report to Council I've done very little of interest, my time being mainly spent manipulating figures in Excel, with breaks to occasionally publish a high quality newspaper running stories such as "Look, he's gay". We've also finished replacing our invoicing software, which I'm sure interests you all.

Zoo is again sponsoring Summer Eights, with a big all-night afterparty at Filth - get tickets from madz@zoozoo.org in advance, there probably won't be any available on the door. Oxide is hosting its annual awards ceremony on Monday, which will give me an excuse to stay in bed on Tuesday morning. Work continues on replacing the OUSU website, obtaining local discounts for students, working with TfL to give away student Oyster cards, and generally preparing for next year's projects.

The OSSL Annual Report should give you a fuller description of OUSU's recent commercial activities, but as ever please ask me questions if I've missed anything.

Aidan Randle-Conde Opportunities)	V-P	(Welfare	and	Equal
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The past two weeks have been a bit quieter than usual...

OUSU website

When my computer hasn't been crashing (as it has a habit of doing every 7.2 minutes) I've been updating the welfare section of the website. Go to <http://www.ousu.org/advice> to see a work in progress. Apologies for not getting the Eating Disorders Guide online yet- I've tried about 10 times and the computer crashes every time.

Committee for Student Health and Welfare Executive sub-Committee for the Management of the Counselling Service

I attended this meeting with questions prepared (and answered) in advance. Most of the questions concerned waiting times and the waiting time is currently 10 working days. This is sharp contrast to what a lot of people think about the times. Please help to dispel myths. The waiting time is short enough that if someone wanted to make an initial appointment now they'd be seen before the end of term. I'm working with the Counselling Service to address this problem of perception and maybe get a regular update sent out to all Welfare Officers.

Average waiting time this year:	10.3 working days
Highest waiting time this year:	16.9 working days
Lowest waiting time this year:	5.2 working days

Consultative Committee for Health and Safety

I was going to meet with the CCHS this term, but it clashed with another meeting, so I sent along Maja Korica instead. Thank you to Maja for agreeing to go along. Much policy was approved, all of it well thought out and nearly exhaustive. Oxford has more reportable accidents than most other universities (for students we appear 108th out of 117 in the "League table" of accidents reported!) This is actually a good thing, as it shows that Oxford takes lab safety very seriously.

Joint Committee of University Council with Junior Members (JCC)

I attended JCC and presented two papers. The first was to outline the motion passed in 1st week which pledges support for the Accommodation Office and the need for a robust advertising budget. I also wrote a letter to the Accommodation Office on the matter. Feel free to ask for copies of any of this correspondence. The second paper submitted called for a closer integration

of Student Service and I'll be working with Gary Crocker to make the University website more accessible and easier to navigate, as well as fitting in snugly with the OUSU website.

Condom machines and condoms

As ever there are queries about condom machines and I've been working with Intelligent Vending on this, trying to get better deals, getting some machines fixed, getting basic training for fixing them at our end. I've also got the stock of free condoms for next year. That means there are 78 gross (or 11,232) condoms sitting in my office. Oh yes.

Casework and the Student Advice Service

Casework is taking up more time than usual at the moment. There are a few students using the service a great deal and this is a good thing. It's sometimes easy to forget that the Student Advice Service is often the **only** place students can turn to for help, so I'm more than happy to dedicate a lot of time to that.

Editors and Co-chairs

I'm still looking for editors of the equal opportunities handbooks and co-chairs for the equal opportunities campaigns. Thanks to everyone who's expressed an interest so far. Interviews will be soon.

LGBSoc

I'm still attending LGBSoc drinks. It's a hard life.

Student press

I'm still also giving the student press copious amounts of quotes. Apologies to Brasenose JCR- there was some confusion somewhere along the lines and what I said and what I meant were two different things in the context.

Oliver Russell	V-P (Graduates)
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Since last Council I have attended University Council with Emma and Charlynnne to hear pleasing news about both the SRI campaign and the Universities endorsement of the system of Home/EU graduate scholarships we have been working on.

I also presented a paper to the Graduate Committee of Conference of Colleges in order to sort out the situation regarding graduate college and university student contracts.

I have also met with the International Students' Committee to make progress on the Handbook, any international students who wish to submit profiles should do so.

I have also dealt with such casework and administrative tasks as are usual to this time of year.

Apart from that I have been generally working on Elections Committee in order to get the VP (Graduates) and NUS polls working online.

Charlynnne Pullen Affairs)	V-P (Access and Academic
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Well this past fortnight I've been working on target schools evaluation mainly. There is a problem with the budget for next year, so I have been finishing the report from the Northern Ireland conferences to prove their worth. I have also been organising a couple of school visits to happen

at the end of this term. Target Schools is recruiting for new co-chairs. I have organised a meeting with current co-chairs and we should have a selection of new co-chairs to start in 10th week of this term but next council.

Target Schools is holding two open days in June, which are currently finalising bookings for. These will be held on the 19th June at St Anne's and on the 21st June at Queens' College. If anyone would like to volunteer please email access@ousu.org.

You may also have noticed that we will hopefully be electing divisional board reps. Last year there were many problems about the election of these reps, but I hope to ensure that we have no gaps in our representation on these committees.

I have spent the past couple of days completing my council mandates with regards to letter writing, on the gender composition of examiners, exam timetables and librarians. Hopefully the students' viewpoint will be taken into account over these matters. Particularly with regard to exam timetables, I have been in contact with the Head of Student Administration and the Academic Registrar over the problems, and they are looking to particularly help those students whose timetables have been received with less than 2 weeks before their exams start. This has only happened in a minority of cases, and most exam timetables are being released at least 2 weeks before the exams begin. I am also producing an exam advice sheet which will be circulated to common room presidents and academic affairs reps' lists very soon. It will also be on the OUSU website. Any questions, let me know on access@ousu.org.

Hannah Stoddart

V-P (Charities and Community)

Community and Volunteering

I continue to work with Community reps to research new volunteering opportunities, and plans are finalised for Oxford Get Involved week in 6th week. There will be stalls in colleges, and central stalls on Broad street encouraging involvement in local groups and campaigns, and trying to raise the profile of volunteering. There will be different themes on different days. See www.oxfordgetinvolved.org, and the main OUSU website for updates.

RAG

Everything is going well – plans are ahead for a shockingly good Oxovison Song Contest at Freud on Wednesday 8th week. I have written to all Common Room Presidents asking them if they would like to judge. Those who haven't got back to me, maybe we can do a show of hands in Council to see who's game?

Environment

Preparations ahead to submit the Green Electricity paper to 9th week University Council ,so it's fresh in their mind when they decide whether or not to renew the Green Electricity contract on 31st July. We are also trying to find out the respective environmental records of the Oxford Bus Company and Stagecoach so we can give students a better idea of how to travel with minimal environmental impact.