

## Reports to Council

7<sup>th</sup> Week Termly Council Hilary 2014

**Tom Rutland**

**President**

Hi Council,

What have I been up to this term?

### Funding & Strategy

The main pledge I made in the election campaign was to increase our block grant (the money given to us by the University). The negotiations with the University on our block grant are complete, and I'll have an oral update on the outcome of this item to deliver in Council.

### Governance

I've led the governance reforms having their second reading today - including new referenda regulations, updated Bye-Laws and new General Regulations. Many thanks to Nick Cooper, James Blythe and Alfred Burton (Internal Affairs Committee members) for their help. Throughout, my guiding principles have been a streamlined and accessible governance process that allows members to properly engage with OUSU - moving away from complex and outdated structures.

### Communications

I promised in my election husts to improve OUSU's communications - so that you'd know what we're up to, and so that you could feed in to the work we do. By the next OUSU Council, there will be a brand new Communications Officer in place. OUSU has two measures of performance, and the clear outcome of them is that those students we engage are very supportive of us - but that we don't engage enough students. This is our opportunity to change that, and I am confident this appointment will allow us to do so.

### Miscellaneous

I've helped publicise Exeter JCR & MCR's protest against their £840 p.a. catering charge, and attended a demonstration with them. As an ex-JCR President I understand both the impact and the importance of supporting 'local' campaigns, and I'm proud to be able to fully support this one. Whilst I write this, I'm at NUS' Strategy & Scrutiny event where I've had the opportunity to input into their strategic plan 2014-17. This term I helped organise a constituency surgery with Andrew Smith MP (Oxford East) and I'm organising one with Nicola Blackwood MP (Oxford West & Abingdon) to ensure students are able to raise concerns with their local representatives. I've met with many Common Room Presidents to discuss rent negotiations, and I'll continue to do so. We've had some success with our joint campaign with NUS to #savestudentopportunities with the fund being saved from a 100% cut.

As ever, if you have any questions - please ask them during the Q&A session, or send me an email ([president@ousu.org](mailto:president@ousu.org)).

Tom

**Garlen Lo**

**VP(Graduates)**

**Graduate Funding**

1. Begun discussions with the University regarding implementing Phase II of the Oxford Graduate Scholarship Matched Fund (OGSMF).
2. Met with the majority of the 20 OGSMF scholars and am currently planning a funding campaign for Trinity.

### **International Students**

1. Mentored the International Students' Campaign (MSC) in organising the OUSU International Festival 2014.
2. Promoted the petition to campaign against the Immigration Bill. Oxford had the second highest number of responses with over 236. We are currently sending postal letters to 154 Lords connected to Oxford to persuade to campaign against the bill with us.
3. Oversaw the improvement of ISC communication via the ISC Facebook page.

### **Mature Students**

Oversaw the improvement of the Mature Students' Campaign. There is now both a chair and a social secretary. They held their first committee meeting in Hilary and they are currently working on researching the mature student experience at Oxford. Results will be shared with the University.

### **Div Reps**

1. Sam Hall (PG Humanities div rep) created a mail list for Humanities department reps so that OUSU can contact them and so that they can communicate with each other.
2. Jena Meinecke worked with the Physics department to put photos and email addresses up of course reps on the department website.

### **Other**

1. Supported Exeter MCR in their campaign for international student eligibility for Junior Dean position.
2. Have discussed with the University student concerns regarding Masters courses and how OUSU can monitor this.
3. Have pushed for greater communication between College Adviser and graduates.

<b>Charlotte Hendy</b>	<b>VP (Welfare and Equal Opportunities)</b>
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Hey everyone,

As we reach the end of another busy term, here's a round up of what I've been up to 😊

### **Race Summit and 100 Voices**

8<sup>th</sup> week will see the University's first ever Race Summit- a gathering of key University stakeholders to discuss race and ethnicity at Oxford. I have been working with the University and OUSU's Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality to prepare the day. In particular, I have written the second 100 voices report, which collates authentic voices of Oxford students, and their experiences of racism at Oxford.

### **Suspended Status Students**

Rachel and I have spent a great deal of this term working on suspended status students, and are delighted that the university have agreed to allow these students access to all University and facilities and services. We are working with the University on the timescale for the implementation of this, and we hope it will be some point in the next academic year. 😊

Following this, we have been busy preparing resources to equip students and Common Rooms to open conversations with their college on this topic. We held an information and equipping evening on Tuesday of 7<sup>th</sup> week.

### **Welfare Rep Support**

One of the favourite parts of my role is meeting all of the dedicated Welfare Reps from JCRs and MCRs across Oxford, and supporting them in their roles. 😊 At Welfare Forums this term we've had some

great discussions on how to make the most of your peer supporters, what can be done to improve college welfare structures, and how to develop out of term support for international students.

Additionally, following a survey conducted by Jamie Wells, Health and Welfare Officer, we've reviewed our Welfare supplies, and are looking into expanding our range of stock so it reflects what students want and need.

#### Other projects this term

- Producing a page on **Bike Safety** on the OUSU website, featuring a student testimonial: <http://ousu.org/advice/transport/bike-safety/>
- Contributing to the development of the University's **Staff-student relationship policy**
- Meeting key people in Oxford to look at plans to improve the safety of the **King's Arms crossing**
- Working with OUSU's Mind Your Head Campaign to plan **Wellbeing Week** in Trinity Term
- Continuing to work on proposals for a **Safe Zone** scheme in Oxford
- Attended **Mental Health First Aid** training
- Developing a **#SafeSex** campaign for Trinity term
- Working with the **Lifeline** project to improve alcohol and drug abuse support for Oxford students

With only one term left in my role, what do you want me to do next? Email [welfare@ousu.org](mailto:welfare@ousu.org) or tweet @OUSU\_WEO!

Rachel Pickering

VP (Access & Academic Affairs)

Hello Council ☺

I hope you've had a great two weeks since last Council. Here's a round up on some of the key things I've been working on over the term as a whole.

#### Access Projects:

##### Alternative Prospectus (AP)

The latest edition of the OUSU AP has now been sent off! I'll make sure to bring it to Council as soon as it's done so you can see. Massive thanks to Laura and Maeve our designer and editor who have worked so hard on the project - it looks amazing and will be a great resource for prospective students.

##### Office For Fair Access (OFFA) Access Agreement

Under the new fee regime, the University has to complete an Access Agreement to OFFA to allow them to charge the £9K fee. This agreement outlines the University's access targets, the money it spends on outreach, student support and retention activities and partnerships it has with external organisations. You can read the last version of the agreement here:

<http://www.offa.org.uk/agreements/University%20of%20Oxford%202014-15.pdf>

I have been involved in the drafting of the next access agreement, feeding in on sections relating to the OUSU Target Schools Shadowing scheme, our Michaelmas term partnership with Future First and the student support we provide through the Student Advice Service.

##### OUSU and The Hub Education Conference

Our committee has been elected, we are meeting regularly and planning is underway for the best conference in Oxford in Trinity Term :D

##### Target Schools

Has had an incredibly successful term, with over 80 Year 12 students coming to shadow current Oxford students. Our t-shirts which we got sponsorship for have arrived, we are currently planning a Target Schools on Tour programme so watch out for us coming to your common room soon to train ambassadors and we have started a BME Target Schools and Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality (CRAE) Access Group which will hopefully be partnering with Target Oxbridge for a shadowing event next term.

### **Academic Affairs Projects**

#### **Student Led Teaching Awards (SLTA)**

Are underway and nominations have been streaming in! If you want to nominate and find out more about the awards then check out the website <http://teachingawards.ousu.org>

#### **Departmental Reviews**

So far this term I have sat on a two day departmental review for the Modern and Medieval Languages Faculty and in 8<sup>th</sup> week will be part of the review for the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography.

#### **Academic Representation**

Garlen and I are taking a paper to the Quality Assurance Sub Committee in 7<sup>th</sup> week, trying to increase support for student representatives across departments. More info to follow following the meeting!

#### **Suspended Status and Access to Facilities**

I'm sure Charlotte will be writing more in her report about this so I won't go into too much detail, but just to say we have been working hard on this over the term and on Tues of 7<sup>th</sup> are holding an information and equipping evening to empower students to open conversations in their colleges relating to access to college facilities and services for suspended status students.

If you have any questions for me about this report or anything else, you're always welcome to get in touch with me at [access@ousu.org](mailto:access@ousu.org). Also you can add me on twitter (@OUSU\_AcAff) and I'll make sure to keep tweeting about access and academic affairs issues and events and that you might be interested in :D.

Rachel

<b>Dan Tomlinson</b>
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<b>VP (Charities &amp; Community)</b>
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Will this be the last termly OUSU Council ever? If so I feel I should mark this moment with a two-line silence.

So this term - it has actually been quite good.

#### One number

£7.65 - the wage, the Living Wage, that the people who clean the OUSU building will be paid from May 1<sup>st</sup> this year because of a recent decision by the University.

#### Community

Last week I Chaired another meeting of the Oxford Student Community Partnership Group, a twice termly meeting that brings together students and student groups, the universities of Oxford, the

Colleges, Councillors and Council staff. We discussed the re-vamped Community Warden scheme, the new tenants' union and ideas for new projects that the OxHub could start.

Homelessness was at the centre of my manifesto and it has been a large part of my term. We campaigned against 38% cuts to homelessness services proposed by the County Council, joining with hundreds of local people. The County Council listened (a tiny bit) and delayed a third of the cuts by one year. Off the back of student interest in this last Thursday we had the first meeting of a homelessness campaign, a meeting Emily and I had been planning for a good while!

#### Living Wage

### ***TOMORROW, 10.30AM, WELLINGTON SQUARE.***

It has been so fantastic to see this campaign grow over the past 7 weeks, the meeting room is fuller than it's been for a couple of years and we are making progress. The University is discussing the Living Wage tomorrow, and we are going to be outside the building welcoming the committee members into the meeting, reminding them that we care about this.

#### Environment and Ethics

10 colleges/14 common rooms have now passed motions getting behind the Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaign. I've worked with them on an action outside the Radcliffe Camera and will be representing Council (motion passed in 1<sup>st</sup> week) and the Campaign to the University's Socially responsible Investment Review Committee tomorrow at 9am.

#### Raise and Give

Jailbreak, Oxford's Got Talent, RAG Week, Zorb Football, The Fashion Show, Blind Date, Valentine's Roses, RAG Ball 2014 recruitment, RAG Committee Elections, RAG Charity Selections. It's been a big term for RAG, arguably the biggest ever. We've now selected the new charities on a massive turnout of 3.7% - Oxford Homeless Pathways, the Against Malaria Foundation, 28 Too Many, KEEN.

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Want to get involved with Charity or Community things in Oxford?

Email me - [charities@ousu.org](mailto:charities@ousu.org)

<b>Sarah Pine</b>	<b>VP (Women)</b>
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Hello everyone

Here's a quick round up of everything that I've done this term:

#### **Women's Leadership Development Programme**

This has (so far) gone really well; about 35 women from across the university have participated. The programme involved 8 sessions; 4 skills training sessions delivered by external trainers, and 4 reflections sessions delivered by peer facilitators. I've really enjoyed it so far and it seems to have gone very well. The training sessions have been on Assertiveness, Public Speaking, Negotiation, and the final session tomorrow is on Teamwork.

#### **It Happens Here**

It Happens Here have done a lot this term. We've done more zine distribution and put on a week of events to raise awareness of sexual violence and campaign against it. We've done work on thinking through our policy concerns with the university, to build on the lobbying work that we did last term. We teamed up with WomCam and Eden Tanner, the graduate women's officer for a consent workshop information session, and will be re-running these things.

We've also arranged training from South London Rape Crisis to better inform our work. This training is an overview of sexual violence, and the knowledge is both instrumentally useful for the work we do, but is good in itself to get more understanding of the problems into our community.

We had an information session for people interested in getting better access to the nearest Sexual Assault Referral Centre, so that people can work on ensuring their access for members of their college. I've been working with Keble, Teddy Hall, St Johns, Mansfield, Lincoln and Wadham to secure

this.

### **WomCam**

I've done lots of work supporting WomCam this term. Lucy and I have done a lot of the logistics supporting the external speakers that they've brought in. WomCam also coupled with It Happens Here for their Anti-Violence Valentine's Week event.

We've also done a lot of prep for the NUS Women's Conference, and elected delegates who we'll be sending to the conference in the Easter vac. I found these conferences invaluable when I was involved in WomCam, so I'm really happy to support WomCammers to go again this year!

### **Oxford Women in Sport**

This has been a really fun project with the women's rugby team, SportsFed and some other groups from Iffley Road. We've got a big event for International Women's Day celebrating women in sport in Oxford. Get your tickets at <http://oxwis2014.wordpress.com>

This is going to be really big and really fun, and I'm particularly happy to be a part of it! Events that raise the profile of women's involvement in Oxford are too few and far between so this has been really rewarding.

### **Sexual Consent**

I've done a lot more training this term, so now there are a lot more peer facilitators to run them in their common rooms.

I've also run more workshops, including the queer workshop for St Anne's LGBTQ week, and one for the Oxford Radical Forum. If you want them and you don't have them, then just email me and we can sort them out!

### **Student Parent Funding**

I've been working with the university to increase student parents' access to the hardship fund, and allow for hardship applications to reflect the cost of childcare. This is the most significant expense for lots of student parents. The waiting list for a university childcare place (which is about 30% cheaper than a private one) is 520 places long, which is almost 100 places over the total capacity of the nurseries. So we've been putting together a proposal to allow student parents to access this discrepancy in the form of hardship funds.

### **FemJam**

FemJam was great. I particularly enjoyed it because students that usually wouldn't engage with OUSU came. Also FemJam was great.

### **Finals Forums**

This term I've been working with some colleges to organise finals forums. These are a chance to air and concerns or anxieties around exams, which feed into gender gaps in finals results. I've helped organise a couple with JCR officers, and spoke at Exeter and Queens forums too!

### **Harassment**

Supported common rooms in changing their harassment policies. I've been working with Merton and St Johns providing support for their work to tackle harassment at college events. Representatives from these common rooms will also be coming to the training from South London Rape Crisis so that their increased responsibility is supported by better knowledge.

I've been planning some actions with WomCam around the high levels of harassment that women at this university face and the lacklustre response from the institution. We're also putting together an information session on harassment to run next term.

### **NUS**

I went to the NUS Lad Culture Summit, which was brilliant. Beyond them showcasing our GoodLad workshops as a positive example of work that people can do, I learned a lot about things that we can do in Oxford.

## PART TME OFFICERS

**Lucy Delaney**

**Women's Campaign Officer**

WomCam is going from strength to strength. Last Monday we celebrated LGBTQ History Month with talks from Professor Laura Doan (who presented her paper on Alan Turing) and Queer Strike, a queer liberation organisation. We also hosted a Transgender Awareness Evening at the end of 5th week - we were visited by speakers from the Beaumont Society and Sally from Lashings of Ginger Beer Time, a queer comedy troupe. The latest WomCam meeting tackled the topic of 'Feminism and Faith' - we invited Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Sikh speakers to discuss the intersection of their feminist beliefs and their faith. The committee are working as hard as ever to finish the WomCam zine and to make sure the term ends on a strong note. I have also been working with VP for Women, Sarah, and the Grad Women's Officer, Eden, to host a series of workshops, which give students the guidance to establish sexual consent workshops in their colleges.

**Sophie Terrett**

**Rent and Accommodation Officer**

Hello, Council! Most of my activity in the past few weeks has been building on the success of the first meeting of the Oxford Tenants' Union; we're establishing working groups about raising awareness of tenants' rights and campaigns against letting agencies fees. We've also successfully secured £500 worth of funding through the People's Budget initiative. My targets before the end of term are to update the 'Living Out' guide (which hasn't changed since 2010!) and moving it to a more prominent and easily accessible place on the website.

**Dan Templeton**

**LBGTQ Officer**

Following a very constructive campaign meeting, I have been coordinating the photographing of all the colleges flying the rainbow flag on 28<sup>th</sup> February (the last day of LGBT History Month) in order to produce some publicity for the campaign and to send a thank you notice to the governing bodies of colleges that flew the flag. In addition to this, I have also begun organising delegates for the NUS LGBT Conference and looking into possible funding for this, including working with the Oxford University LGBTQ Society. I have also continued my working relationship with the publication 'No HeterOx' in order to help them with their first publication. I attended a meeting along with the VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities regarding reducing substance abuse and HIV spread amongst LGBTQ Oxford students. Finally, I have begun gathering a comprehensive pool of resources on little known issues such as non-binary gender identities for the campaign, including those from the Trans Conference that I attended.

**Aparna Mummadi**

**LBGTQ Officer**

Over these last 2 weeks I have made progress with the goals I have setup. I attended an interesting meeting at the start of the week with OUSU International Students' Officer (Yajing), the International Students' Campaign (ISC) reps and the International Students' reps from the various colleges. The college reps highlighted some important issues they were dealing with and we discussed some good practices they have individually adopted that could perhaps be translated into other colleges. We discussed in detail how we can coordinate information so that the college reps are kept well informed of the events taking place among the various student international societies & those organised by the ISC. In response to this we hope to 1) create a Facebook group for the international reps 2) set up a regular newsletter with information from the various societies & ISC to be sent to the college reps which can then be forwarded to the students within their colleges. I will also be supporting the International Festival organised by the ISC this weekend where I hope to make contact with the various societies. Hope to see you all at the festival this Sunday for some lovely food & exciting performances!

Thank you.

**Xavier Cohen**

**Environment and Ethics Officer**

Hello council. Despite the irony of what was possibly climate-change-induced extreme rain putting people off, our 'Fossil Free Friday' demonstration in Radcliffe Square in 'Go Green Week' was a success, with many students engaging with the divestment campaign for the first time and writing Valentine's Day cards to the Vice Chancellor announcing our break-up with fossil fuels! Since then, the E&E campaign held a fantastic academic panel discussion on the effectiveness of divestment, which enriched our understanding of the campaign's strengths and drawbacks. I have also personally been looking into reviving the old arms divestment campaign, which never fully achieved its goals in previous years - expect to hear more on this front next term!

**Yajing Xu**

**International Students Officer**

I had a meeting with the international reps, ISC, and Graduate International Students Officers, where we discussed the role of international students reps and talked about how to improve integration of international students with British students. Summary of the meeting will follow soon. Furthermore, I drafted a letter to all common rooms to encourage the installment of an international rep in every common room following the survey results, where less than half of international students who participated claim to have a rep at their college. This letter will be sent out at the beginning of next week. Lastly, I was appointed "special advisor" for the International Festival and helped with organisational aspects of the Festival. It's this Sunday 11-4pm at Town Hall, do come along!!!

**Emily Silcock**

**Community Outreach and Charities Officer**

Hey council,

We had the first meeting of the Homelessness Campaign last Thursday, which was so exciting! I'm still buzzing - probably still will be by council. Lots of interested people and interesting ideas that hopefully will be taking shape over the next couple of weeks. Email [homeless@ousu.org](mailto:homeless@ousu.org) for more info, to be on my mailing list etc.

Other than that, I've mainly just been meeting with more homelessness organisations and doing my networking thing.

Happy 7<sup>th</sup> week

Emily xx

**Eden Tanner**

**Grad Women's Officer**

In the past two weeks, I have been focusing on Compulsory Consent Workshops, in addition to being an active committee member and participant in the Women's Campaign in the organisation of a trans\*awareness event in conjunction with LGBTQsoc. The awareness event has a good attendance and was very successful.

In conjunction with Sarah Pine, Lucy Delaney and It Happens Here, I organised and delivered a Consent Workshop Information Session to enable people to raise the motion within their own common room and offer support to the interested parties.

**James Elliot**

**Disabled Student's Officer**

In the last two weeks I have continued meetings of the Disabled Students Campaign, where we have developed a plan for events next term. We are hoping to hold a series of intersectionality discussions, ideally linked with the other OUSU liberation campaigns, and a panel discussion on disabled people and the cuts, and what we as students can do to combat that.

We are also working on raising the profile of the Campaign among disabled students, and as such we have a publicity strategy and website plan for next term to make more people aware of the campaign which I will be working on with a friend who is an ex-professional graphic designer and marketing expert. This will take up much of my time in the next two weeks.

**Jamie Wells**

**Health and Welfare Officer**

Following on from the results of the survey about welfare supplies, we have added a number of new items to our stock and lowered the price of lubricant, and this has now been circulated around college welfare officers. I have continued to attend and help to plan the welfare rep forums, with the most recent one aimed at assessing college welfare structures, and have continued to attend meetings of the Well-being Week planning group. Earlier this week I wrote a piece for the Cherwell about sexual health among Oxford students and what OUSU does to promote it and help welfare officers in this respect.

**Anna Bazley**

**Clubs and Societies Report Officer**

Tom and I are meeting in 7th Week to discuss the model constitution for Clubs and Societies.

Clubs Committee has been rescheduled to Friday of 7th Week.

Working on better publicity for how to register a Club, as 90% of emails received are from people confused about this.