

Reports to Council

7th Week Council Hilary 2015

Sabbatical Officers

Louis Trup – President

Over the past two weeks, I have:

- Been working with the Hub to help ensure they can continue the provision they give to students.
- Evaluated and looked at moving forward with voter registration with the university, the council and other community partners.
- Been finalising Quinquennial review proposals with the university and trustees.
- Worked with an OUSU ex-president on better understanding constraints on OUSU of the lobbying act - crucial with regards to our general election manifesto and campaigning for free education.
- Reviewed the Engineering department's teaching and learning.
- Managed to secure £80,000 for sport funding from the Estate Bursars Committee.
- Spent a lot of time preparing for General Purposes Committee.
- Spoke to the president and vice-president for Union Development of the NUS about how they can support OUSU more.
- Had meetings with OUSU's sales manager, Max, about how OUSU's subsidiary company can increase its commercial services in ways which both make money and fulfil our charitable objectives.
- Worked on finalising the report on deciding whether the university should move email services to the cloud.
- At clubs committee gave some money to clubs but also reaffirmed the changes that are going to be made to the process around clubs registration.
- Did an initial assessment of the submissions to the student IT innovation fund. There are some gr9 ideas.
- Other things

Termly report:

It has been a pretty good term. I am happy that I have managed to achieve most of the things I wanted to. The IT innovation fund, the student awards, the changes to clubs and societies, the money won for sport, castle mill preliminary victory, and changes to governance on media services/campaigns/OUSU's articles will hopefully make things better for both OUSU and for students in Oxford. Pretty much all the wins outlined above were aims for me as they should hopefully increase the number of people engaging with OUSU. I hope this is the case, but I fear that all these good things may be overshadowed by a small number of somewhat contentious things. I just hope that people who write OUSU off because of their political views still feel like there is at least one thing we do for them. It is my job and my mandate to try and get people engaged/involved with OUSU and there is still a lot of work to be done next term on that.

James Blythe – VP Access and Academic Affairs

Hi Council,

Since we last saw each other I've been busier than I ever thought I could be. I'm going to give you a run down of why below, but if I haven't replied to an email from anyone, please tell me, things are much quieter now.

- **African-Caribbean Shadowing Day** Alongside the normal run of Target Schools shadowing we are running (on the same day as Council!) the first ever BME specific version of that programme, for African-Caribbean Y12s in partnership with the African Caribbean Society. Essi Turkson from Target Schools and Cameron Alexander from ACS have been making this happen and it's really great to see a manifesto pledge coming together.
- **Education Vision** This is going very well, we have had lots and lots of responses to the survey and some fantastic focus groups. The next stage, which will be more difficult, is to actually understand the student view and create a vision document.
- **Prelims Feedback** I'll provide an oral update on how Undergraduate Panel took the paper I brought to 5th week Council at the meeting.
- **VP Grads Induction** I've been preparing, along with colleagues, a really quick but effective induction for the new VP (Grads) who will be elected tomorrow. Are you a grad who hasn't voted? Vote!! I'm really excited to have a 6th sab again and to be able to have graduate students' views represented at the highest level of the University more effectively than frankly the other sabs, who haven't been grads, can do.
- **Reviews** I've been reviewing the Faculty of History & the Department of Earth Sciences since we saw each other last, which has taken up a huge amount of my time but been really interesting. I've also been engaged in the ongoing aftermath of the review of Wycliffe Hall and some broader discussions that are beginning about the future of training Church of England priests and the impact on Oxford and the Permanent Private Halls.
- **London** Along with Anna I represented OUSU at a collegiate Student Unions event put on in London by the NUS which was very interesting.

Committees

PPH Supervisory Committee; Education Committee; Admissions Executive; Joint Fees & Student Support Advisory Group. I've also met with divisional reps, with sabs-elect, with part-time exec, with the Scrutiny Committee, and with Target Schools.

This seems a really short report for a really busy fortnight but do ask me questions & follow the action live at @ousu_acaff.

Anna Bradshaw – VP Women

Hi Council –

This report is mostly focused on the last fortnight, and I'll use my verbal report to talk more about the term. As always please do feel free to ask me any questions you have. You can also get in touch with me by emailing women@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

xAnna

Sexual Health & Sexual Violence

Free Periods

I'm working with David (Health & Welfare Officer) and two interested students on a really exciting new project – from the start of next term OUSU will provide mooncups, pads, tampons and panty liners at or below cost price to common rooms in the same way that we provide contraception and protection at the moment. We'll be launching a pilot round of orders for the start of next term, and I'll come back with more detail once we have them. To launch this, we're holding a Full Moon Party on the afternoon of International Women's Day (8th March).

Supporting David's manifesto pledge and a motion that OUSU

Consent Workshops

Queer Consent Workshops happened in a few colleges over LGBT History Month, and though we haven't identified a time yet they will also be happening with the LGBTQ Society sometime soon.

On Tuesday I will be running a tailored consent workshop with a discussion group at Headington School, building on work I did with Cherwell School. After this I think we will have done enough pilot work and evaluation to firm up the sixth form editions of the consent workshops, which is really exciting.

Evaluation is ticking on, and I've now met with disabled students, trans students and CRAE about them. Still to go are international students and queer students.

I've been doing some exciting work with Lindsay (super awesome Disabled Students' Officer) getting ready to run a day focused on disability, sex and consent in Trinity Term that includes workshops for students and training for staff. Will keep you posted as it develops.

My meeting with the Thames Valley Police and Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre (OSARCC) went really well, and work that OUSU is doing is thoroughly integrated into the Thames Valley-wide strategy for reducing sexual and domestic violence. We will be leading on producing template workshops for colleges and sixth forms and Universities, and helping with other work connected to Pupil Referral Units and poster campaigns.

I also spent some time last week helping my counterpart at Bristol University to get agreement from her University for the introduction of OUSU-model consent workshops in their freshers' week.

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 continue running First Respondent Training sessions, and the response has been really positive. I will be running more throughout term – so if you'd like one in your college get in touch!

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

Leaflets and Apps

I've been working to update our Sexual Violence Incident and Resource leaflets, and have also produced a Junior Dean flash card with the help of a Junior Dean. These are all with our designer at the moment, and will be ready for the start of next term.

I've also done lots of work on the content of the new It Happens Here & Code4Rights First Response App – see under It Happens Here for more information.

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

Harassment Policies

Alice (chair of the Harassment Policy Working Group) and I ran our second equipping session for college representatives, which went well (though was less well attended than the first).

I have also had a really productive meeting with the head of the Equality and Diversity Unit who has now formally committed to working with us to make sure that the template for college policies is all done for the start of next term. I have also continued work on consulting with different groups (CRAE and trans students have been consulted with, queer and disabled students are still to go) about the policy to make the college template even better than the University's policy.

I will be supporting the Brookes Union women's officer in her negotiations with her University to get them to update their harassment policy.

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

Academic Attrition

Some good work is happening here, and Finals Forums will start taking place in colleges this week. I'm also working with Marina (Graduate Academic Affairs Officer) to hold something similar for Masters Students at the start of next term, which is really exciting.

I had a really good meeting with OxFEST about the academic stream of the upcoming OUSU Women's Mentoring Scheme, and we are now almost all set for that side – we should have up to 10 families in each of the four divisions, linking an academic mentor with a graduate mentee/mentor and an undergraduate mentee.

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.'

Women in Leadership

The OUSU Women's Leadership Development Programme is almost done, with the last session this Thursday. Feedback so far has been really positive, and I hope that the women who have been a part of the programme will make up a number of the mentors on the community stream of the Mentoring Scheme.

The OUSU Women's Leadership Development Programme is halfway through, and the first two sessions have gone really well. Feedback is positive, and the group has continued to be really vibrant and engaged.

The St John's micro-programme has finished and went really well. The students who led it are working on a report, but I am very optimistic that it will work as a model for other colleges next year.

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...'

Campaigns

WomCam

WomCam has run a whole lot of great events in the last fortnight, specifically focused on Queer Women and Disabled Women. I haven't been able to make as much of them as I'd like, but they are still great.

It Happens Here

It Happens Here had the first coding session for its First Response App, a collaboration with Code4Rights. It's looking really exciting, and I put in a lot of work, producing most of the copy that will go into the app. They also held elections, and have a full committee for the first time since the end of last year which is a credit to the co-chairs determined and strategic approach to the campaign.

International Students

In the absence of a VP (Graduates), I have taken on the work supporting the International Students Campaign and International Students Officer. We are preparing for a brunch and meet-up for International Students' Officers this Saturday, which should be lovely.

International Women's Day

I will be leading a Student Bloc at Oxford Reclaim the Night with the Brookes Union women's officer, as well as running the Full Moon Party (see above) on the day itself. I'm also part of the organizing team of Oxford Women Speak Out, which will be exhibiting on the night of the 7th, and am running two workshops at the OxFEST conference.

Events and Committees

- Women's Leadership Development Programme: Creating and Maintaining a Team (19th February)
- NUS Meeting of Collegiate SUs (25th February)
- Childcare Steering Group (26th February)
- Reception for Tony Porter (26th February)
- It Happens Here: First Response App coding session (28th February)
- WomCam: Disabled Women's Working Group Spoonie Session (2nd March)
- St John's Women's Leadership Development Programme closing dinner and address (3rd March)
- Oxford Women Speak Out: OUSU (4th March)

Ruth Meredith – VP Charities and Community

Termly Council Report

Hi Council! This is the summary of things I've achieved this term:

1. Equipping Students

Manifesto Pledge:

I've established and am running a **specialized campaigning leadership course**, which has been well attended, and has been genuinely student-led. Once the course has finished, I'll be evaluating its successes and failures, and writing recommendations for changes for next year.

Additional activities:

- I've created and delivered five **negotiation workshops** for students alongside Anna and James.
- I've **designed** and **delivered training** to both my PTE, and to the new RAG and RAG Ball Committees, to leadership course facilitators and to new members of the C&C campaigns.
- Ran the first ever OUSU Student Awards with Louis and Anna

2. Sustainability

Manifesto Pledge:

- I have worked with the **University's Estates** department to ensure E&E campaign and reps are at the heart of reducing the University's emissions by 33% by 2020.
- Last term, Oxford Uni gave away **6.7 tonnes** of unwanted stuff to the British Heart Foundation at the end of term, worth a massive £13,286. I'm working with the City Council, the uni and a crack team of students to increase that number at the end of next term.

Additional Activities:

- I have supported E&E by guiding the **divestment** paper through numerous committees, and by negotiating with the University on what the first steps to divesting from fossil fuels looks like. I expect the final decision to be made in 9th week.
- I have been working with **Leonie** (E&E PTE) to support E&E reps, and improve communication with them.

3. Social Responsibility

Manifesto Pledge:

- The **University of Oxford became an accredited Living Wage employer.**
- **Four colleges** became accredited Living Wage employers, and the campaign is regularly running workshops and helping students to lobby their colleges.

Additional Activities:

- I designed and ran a **voter registration** week with Louis, and with the support of the Sabs and PTE (thanks, team!). I'm waiting on the updated figures to see how we did.
- I am organizing a **General Election** Hustings for 8th week, and supporting Lindsay run a Disability Hustings for TT 1st week.
- I have supported On Your Doorstep **produce information packs** for colleges, and to strengthen our relationship with the Hub's Homelessness Action Group.
- The Community Wardens got over **65 survey responses from Castle Mill** residents, and mobilized student support to save Castle Mill, which was an important part of the team's work.

4. RAG

- Wrote and passed a new constitution and annual programme
- Oversaw the most profitable RAG Ball yet, and have built strong relationships with the Town Hall for next year. I've also recruited and trained a new committee for 2015's ball.
- Run two recruitment rounds for a staff RAG Coordinator
- Trained the new RAG Committee, and will be training the new RAG events leaders
- Set up a new tracking system for Jailbreak, and managed the safety and coordination of the event for 200 people.

- Spent hours on Gift Aid registration
- Ran and delivered RAG elections, with a turnout of 6.25%, the highest ever.
- Established a new RAG exec position to support other student societies fundraiser. So far, we've worked with the Oxford Book Club, and are in the process of planning events with Out of the Blue, and Java and Co.
- Oversaw other RAG events, including: Blind Date, Kili Climb fundraising, working toward a Boat Race raid, and selling approximately 400 tickets for a Varsity Amsterdam trip!

Many of my campaigns exec have turned over this term, so THANK YOU to all of them for their incredible work, especially Molly and the RAG Exec, Fergal, Sam, Ellen, Cara, and Rivka, the Community Wardens, David Parton, Joe Reason and Lindsay, and Freya.

Chris Pike – VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities

OUSU Council Report : Hilary Term 7th week

Hey comrades,

So it's the end of a second term. As many of you will know I was off for a week (most of 5th week and the start of 6th week).

I'd like to thank those students with whom I work regularly for their understanding and patience over this time. It is good to see that (most) students respect the importance of looking after ones mental health, given how much OUSU recognises (e.g. through Mind Your Head) the damage that can be done by the stigmatisation of those with mental health problems.

Events

I'm organising two interesting events, which are coming up. Please get involved if they're of interest to you!

Inclusive Societies Workshop, Thursday 7th week, 1pm, OUSU: As part of Disability Awareness Week, I'm organising a session for club and society chairs to think about how they can make their group more inclusive, with a particular focus on disability. Any club or society chair (or other exec member) can attend and I encourage them all to come along!!

Suspended Students Open Meeting, Wednesday 8th week, 7pm, location TBC: Along with James Blythe I'm organising a session for everyone interested in campaigning for suspended status students (both in terms of access to facilities and in terms of welfare issues). It will be an informal event open to all, with the aim of building a network that can campaign on the issues. We'll also (hopefully) be showcasing some of the work already being done.

Work

Here's some of the things I've been focusing on the past week (since returning from my week off).

Mental Health Charter: The Mental Health Charter is almost ready to go and we'll be launching a public consultation on the draft in 8th week. Please feed in!

Oxford Students Disability Community: OSDC has become a part of OUSU (yay!) and I've been working with them to make the transition as smooth as possible, as well as supporting them in the work they're doing already.

Autism: Having attended an Autism Oxford event on Saturday, I'm going to be working on events specifically around autism in Trinity term, including an autism 101 as well as an event on autism and sexuality.

Part-Time Executive Officers

Marina Lambrakis – Graduate Academic Affairs Officer

Hello Council!

Since last we parted I have been doing my usual committee-ing. With James Blythe, I sat through a mammoth Education Committee where we discussed many things including part-time study and distance learning at graduate level. I also attended Graduate Studies Administration and Procedures Group, where the issue of GSS (graduate supervision system) came up, and Graduate Admissions and Funding Committee, which is pretty self-explanatory (lots of applications and admissions stats). I attended Grad PresCom too, and gave updates on all these to common room presidents.

Apart from all this, I've set up a meeting for graduate departmental and divisional reps in 8th week on the issue of teaching opportunities for graduate students. We'll be thinking about examples of best practice, and coming up with strategies for grad reps to lobby across departments and divisions for the development of better teaching schemes and opportunities. Over the Easter vac I will consolidate and work on my pledge to tackle the gender gap at Master's level, which is a priority of mine for Trinity term. As always, you can drop me a line at gradacaff@ousu.ox.ac.uk - I will mostly be in Oxford over the holiday. Have a lovely vac, & see you all in April! :)

Marina

Will Brown – Clubs and Societies Support Officer

- Clubs Committee
 - Attended Clubs Committee in 5th week

- It was good to see a newly drafted document proposed for clubs registrations and funding applications – far more simple and concise than at present.
- Also good to receive formal acknowledgement that the ‘hard-copy’ system currently in place for clubs registration and applications is outdated, and needs improvement.
 - This will hopefully result in a push towards digitisation, which I will be aiming to encourage and assist with.
- Exec. Meeting
 - Attended Exec. Meeting in 6th week

Term Overview:

I feel this term has certainly been formative, in the sense of allowing me to better understand the present state of ‘clubs and societies’ in OUSU and in the University department, and to recognise the areas which need improvement. It is clear that – above all else – the lack of a digital system in place is a key limitation, and one that needs to be overcome before any significant or tangible progress can be made from OUSU.

Jenny Walker – LGBTQ Officer

This week I got the college buddy scheme fully up and running, matching up the first pairs/threes together. Lots of people were interested, which was lovely, and in the next few weeks I’ll be matching up more colleges. I’ve been talking to the graduate community about the idea of introducing a Graduate LGBTQ Officer to try and get feedback on whether they think it would be a good idea to have one; I’ve also been discussing this with exec members. I’ve had further talks with WomCam about collaborating on implementing the Good Night Out scheme in Oxford (providing staff, bouncers etc. with training to stop homophobic and sexist incidents happening in clubs, bars etc.), and I think this will be a good thing to work on next term. Ex-chair of the LGBTQ Campaign Crash and myself have organised a meeting for the Campaign on implementing trans friendly policy across colleges. In the next few weeks I hope to be able to buy rainbow flags to lend out to colleges and complete the guide for college reps, as well as continuing to work on plans for the transition fund and encouraging people to run for LGBTQ Campaign Chair.

Aliya Yule – Womens’ Campaign Officer

Events

WomCam has had a very busy and successful term in terms of events, with lots of people (new and old faces) joining us for our weekly meetings.

The Harrasment Policy event in 1st week was very successful, and helped launch the Harassment Policy WG which is working to change the harassment policies in individual

colleges following the change in the university policy. Huge shout out to Anna Bradshaw and Alice Vac for spearheading this campaign.

The Sex Workers and Uni event in 2nd week, chaired by Zuleyka Shahin, the Grad Women's Officer, was very successful, with over 60 people in attendance and lots of interesting conversations being had about destigmatising sex work and the failures of the law to protect sex workers.

In 3rd week, we hosted a whole week of events for Reproductive Justice Week. We had a lot of great feedback for the week, particularly about the diversity of events. It was great to collaborate with other Oxford based groups, such as Sexpression Oxford, as well as with larger national organisations, such as Abortion Rights, to put together an informative week and reproductive justice.

In 4th week, we hosted a creativity session, working towards the WomCam zine (see below). This was a great self-care session which included play dough, glitter glue, and cutting up old magazines. Beautiful pieces of poetry and art were produced, and we look forward to seeing these in the zine!

As part of Somerville Equalities Week in 5th week, Anna Bradshaw, Alice Vac, Flora Sheldon and myself created a new workshop called the 'Bystander Intervention Training', which is designed to equip bystanders with the ability to effectively intervene in situations of harassment. The workshop went really well, and we look forward to training more members of the committee to facilitate the workshop and spread them throughout the university!

In 6th week, we had two amazing events organised by our Queer Women's Working Group, as part of LGBTQ History Month. On Tuesday, we looked at queer icons from throughout history and crafted tributes to them, and on Thursday, we considered intersectionality and problems with this within the queer community. Big thank you to Holly Rowden for putting this together!

As part of Disability Awareness Week in 7th week, our wonderful Women with Disabilities Officer has put together a session called 'Invisible Illness 101 and Spoonie Crafting'! There will be a short talk on being a good ally to people with invisible illnesses, and an introduction to Spoon Theory, followed by a self-care crafting session!

In 8th week, we look forward to our celebration of women, with acts including music, poetry, comedy and spoken word.

Working Groups

The WomCam working groups have gone from strength to strength this term. Thank you to the chairs of the working groups – Georgiana Jackson-Cullen (women of colour working group), Holly Rowden (queer women working group), Rowan Davis (trans women working group), Bekky Smiddy and Ellie McIntyre (women with disabilities working group), Mery Shahin (international women working group), Alice Vac (harassment policy working group) and to Talia

Cohen and Helena Khullar (Oxford Uni Sexism Project). I have enjoyed working with the different groups to host events and support them in whatever way I can.

Collaborations

WomCam has enjoyed working with Gender Equality festivals in different colleges throughout this term, including Somerville & Oriel, and St Hilda's. We also have been in talks with different feminist societies at colleges to collaborate on events, such as with ChristChurch feminists to collaborate with OUSP.

We also had a great time working with It Happens Here for Anti-Violence Valentine's Day, where we hosted an anti-violence Valentine's card-making session.

Zine

Huge thank you to Rose Lyddon, our new zine editor, who has been working very hard on this. We have had in all the submissions for the zine, including art, essays, poetry, photographs and more. This term the theme is 'Irrationality'. Currently we are in the process of editing pieces and putting it all together, and hope to have it ready to launch in 8th week at our celebration of women end of term social.

Committee

The WomCam committee have been amazing this term. We elected new members of the committee at the beginning of term, and have since also welcomed our new WomCam Grad Women's Officer.

We introduced a buddy system to the committee to help new members get to know WomCam, and to ensure that they have someone they can go to for support and for advice.

We have also organised self-care sessions for the committee to ensure that everyone is looking after themselves, and to make sure that we work together cohesively and effectively.

David Parton – Health and Welfare Officer

I have really enjoyed my first term as OUSU's Health and Welfare Officer. It's been tough but now I have my bearings, and once my Law Mods are out of the way in 9th Week, I feel like I can make really significant progress with health and welfare issues. One thing I am most proud of this term is the progress myself, Anna and other welfare and women's officers have made in ensuring the distribution of sanitary towels, tampons and Mooncups by OUSU to Common Rooms at a below market price (or hopefully free of charge), which may be in place by the end of Hilary.

I have collated a mass of information relating to mental health services in Oxford and a plethora of information regarding common mental health issues facing students, through attending and speaking at events such as the 'Meet the Professionals' talk at St John's in 5th Week, which I

hope to consolidate over the Easter vacation and prepare for eventual placement in a mental health awareness and signposting pack. Moreover, since 5th Week Council, I have helped Ruth organise OUSU's General Election hustings that will take place in 8th Week, and attended a Harassment Policy Equipping Session run by Anna.

Over the term, I have enjoyed working with all OUSU officers, and have been particularly supportive of Ruth's drive to ensure more students register to vote in preparation for the General Election on May 7th. Passing my SRE and NHS motions through Council, for the OUSU General Election Manifesto were also highlights of my first term at OUSU; whilst standing with the rest of the Exec in condemning Marine Le Pen's presence in Oxford was another.

Nikhil Venkatesh – Black and Minority Ethnic Students Officer

This past fortnight has mainly been dedicated to consolidating the work done so far this term and looking ahead. I enjoyed my scrutiny interview, which gave me a chance to discuss and reflect upon my term as BME Students' Officer so far, and am pleased with the report of Scrutiny Committee, which was positive towards me. In preparation for a meeting with the director of the Equality and Diversity Unit of the university, I met with the current and the previous chair of CRAE (Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality), and I am happy that we have identified three major areas on which we will be working together - fair admissions, a diverse curriculum and faculty, and BME student welfare. My policy priorities will be to ensure bias training for all tutors running interviews, to encourage colleges to sign up to the goal of having a 'race equality fellow' who should be BME, and to implement any conclusions of CRAE's curriculum symposium.

The Equality and Diversity Unit have very recently hired to fill the post of Race and Religion advisor, and I look forward to working with them. The Unit wishes to implement the Race Equality Charter Mark next year, and it will be important to ensure that our goals on admissions, curriculum and faculty are included as criteria within this.

I plan to meet with the BME officers from common rooms who have them early next term; I think it's very important that we have the opportunity to share our ideas and experiences, and build a network of people who are fighting for change in Oxford.

If anyone is interested in these issues, or has advice, questions or offers of help, that would be much appreciated. I would also like to use this opportunity to advertise CRAE's BME Student Welfare Survey, which can be found online, and also their Curriculum Symposium, taking place in 0th week next term.

Julien Coyne – Academic Affairs Campaign Officer

I was surprised, starting this role this term, how few official responsibilities one had. I did work on some independent projects - mainly the academic representation sharepoint site - and kept

reasonably abreast of what was happening with the Education Vision and the work of the other part-time executive officers (thinking especially about issues concerning gender equality and the needs of minorities in academics). I think this is all quite acceptable and I was well within what I expected myself to achieve this term.

But my time in academic representation this term was mainly taken up by my roles as a student representative in the physics department, and my role as MPLS divisional representative. And considering the number of times in those roles I wished I had someone to delegate to, who was already orchestrating various small projects, it surprises me that there are no specific ways of supporting div reps (and beyond) already in the remit of this role. I think that's a significant gap that could be filled (see my report as MPLS undergraduate div rep), and is probably the main thing I'll try to figure out next term. Obviously I wouldn't be well-suited to providing that kind of support (as I'm already a div rep) - but I do think that my multifarious roles give me enough insight that I could provide some useful direction for future people in this role.

Zuleyka Shahin – Graduate Womens' Officer

- Continuing to provide one-on-one support to women who have contacted me directly, both through OUSU email and my personal email address as well as Facebook. Even though I encourage women to contact me through official channels (email) I continue to accept and counsel women through whatever method they choose to contact me.
- Kellogg drop-in clinic on Tuesday 24 February 2014. A very successful, small and cosy event with officers and some women from the college. Discussing how to afford for the needs of graduate women, issues to do with parents/children and accommodation, representing the needs of women with families, undertaking the work of women's/welfare representative college officer positions and how we can continue to work together. Also discussions around micro-aggression and implied racism across university. Clarification over harassment policy in the university. Several officers have undertaken OUSU training with Anna Bradshaw. The officers in Kellogg College are all very approachable, kind, dedicated and hard-working and we maintain very strong relations. Again, continuing to build these relationships and remain in touch with what is happening across all colleges.

General termly activities:

- New college level structure put in place with the noughth week meet of all college level reps (Women's Officers, LGBTQ and Welfare)
- Drop-in clinics (referenced through my reports). So far have conducted sessions as Balliol, Hertford and Kellogg. I have sessions coming up at Mansfield College and St Cross College. Next term I will be visiting St John's for a Women's Lunch, again to give a talk.
- One-on-one support continues every day.
- Speaking at various events including WomCam and several other panels and discussion in my capacity as Graduate Women's Officer to raise awareness.
- Next term focusing on more events and workshops to occur throughout the term. Currently planning those. I have two events taking place this term, one of them a general event called NO AGENDA: HOLLER' that is open to all genders but if successful I may do a similar one but for women only. This is an open platform to

community build and voice the “self” allowing for discussion and essentially a cathartic process as we reach the end of term. Will predominantly be attended by women and is heavily grad focused in terms of invites and attendance but is open to all students. I wanted this one to give women the space to speak in front of men about what they experience, feel and suffer as well as what needs to change so we have a completely open platform. In future, a closed gender session open to non-men (women and non-gender binary) might be a good next move. The first of these takes place on Monday 2 March 2014, and will report on how it goes in the final report of the term.

*N.b I have had continued problems with my email migration and cannot mail out to my mailing lists and have therefore relied heavily on my (luckily) new Facebook MCR Group of (nearly all) officers, to keep in touch with my reps and colleagues. This has delayed and hindered a lot of the work I am doing, especially putting on workshops and events.

Henna Shah – Access and Admissions Officer

Hi Council, I've had a great time getting to grips with my role so far, as well as working with James and the rest of the exec. In terms of what I've done this term - I've organised the Reach Scholars evening (finally happening!), got a new Sharepoint site up and running which I will introduce to the Access Reps at our 8th week Access Forum and have taken an active role in Target Schools, as the chair of their steering committee. Over the vac and next term I hope to use this new resource to make more information available both to JCR Access Officers in their roles and hopefully to applicants by putting more information (e.g. Alternative Prospectuses) on the OUSU Website. In terms of my role within the wider exec, I've had a really productive time at Regent's especially, and in working with Matt and James on the Education Vision especially, as well as on Castle Mill and I look forward to working on more exec-wide issues next term.

As usual if anyone has any comments or questions, don't hesitate to email me:

accessadmissions@ousu.ox.ac.uk

Henna

Lindsay Lee – Disabled Students' Officer

Two big events are coming next term: in first week, we'll be hosting a Disability Hust for the general election. We're inviting high level officials from all parties to come answer questions about disability specific issues. We're collaborating with other regional student unions and disability organizations in order to make this event as big as possible. Let me know if you'd like to help out with it!

In second week we'll be hosting a training event for students and staff about disability-specific issues when it comes to sexual health and well-being. We'll have sessions focused on communication, body acceptance, and logistics of doing the deed. Look for more information in the coming weeks!

Danny Waldman – Rent and Accommodation Officer

Data collection for the College Accommodation Database has begun! With enough nagging I hope to get information back from all the colleges in time for the vac, so I can transform the mass of words into a behemoth of a table or bar graph or something similarly impressive during Easter. I've also asked OUSU if I can go to the Crisis Conference in 8th week on homelessness. It's an issue which is obviously linked to accommodation, and many students feel deeply dissatisfied and distressed by the homeless issue here in Oxford - I think it would be beneficial for me to be equipped to help collaborate with charities and organisations like OxPolicy who are looking at homelessness. Finally, Joe Reason has been doing an amazing job of creating a database of common room officers, and once this is finalised I'd like to contact common room domestic secretaries (and equivalents) and meet fortnightly - watch this space for DomCom.

Leonie Hoffmann – Environment and Ethics Officer

Hi Council, since these are my first two weeks as E&E PTO, I've only started to get a feel for the role, but this is what happened so far: I attended the OUSU Divestment Campaign meeting, had my handover with Xav, the previous officer, and will have had an introductory discussion with Ruth by Wednesday. I'm about to send out an invitation to E&E reps for a get together to brainstorm and share best (and not so good) practice, and just contacted Food Justice for a potential project on hall food waste in Trinity. I'm also always open for any ideas you have, so do get in touch!

Minerva Lim – International Students' Officer

Hi Council, over the past two weeks I've been busy trying to set up a meeting for all the Colleges' International Students' representatives which will be held this Saturday, 11am at OUSU so if you do know of anyone who represents the international students' community and who has been missed out, please pass on the message to them. Meanwhile, I've also been busy putting together a package to guide International Student reps in their role and helping to formulate policy that represents International Students for the OUSU Policy Book. Planning for the International Students' Fair in Trinity Term is also underway so get excited for that!

Joe Reason – Common Room Support Officer

Hey Council,

Over the past two weeks I have attended Graduate President's Committee, where I have become part of the working group to change how it is run, and Undergraduate President's Committee. I was also supposed to hold a meeting of OUSU Reps but this had

to unfortunately be cancelled at the last minute for personal reasons. Before the end of term, there will be another OUSU Reps meeting.

I have also been working on information systems from Common Rooms, with a database of common room officers slowly being added to. This has started with Undergraduate common rooms but will be extended to graduate common rooms over the coming weeks.

Overall this term I have worked on better communication with common room representatives by hosting OUSU Rep meetings, the affiliation status of common rooms (all affiliated currently) and information services for common rooms.

As always, any questions, just email me on commonrooms@ousu.org.

Joe x

Divisional Board Representatives

Emma Alexander – Social Sciences – Undergraduate

Hi Council! Just to update you on all my activities this term. I have written a paper on marking criteria documents which has gone to Politics UJCC and will hopefully result in positive change which can be used as a model for other departments. I am also in the process of organising a Gender Gap forum to discuss the reasons behind this issue for the Social Sciences. I have run surveys for Social Sciences students and Social Sciences reps to shed light on the issue of assessment and feedback and work out which departments have particularly good practices. I have also given a report about the issue of assessment and feedback, and NSS data, at the Undergraduate Discussion Forum for the Division. I chased up the issue of a Politics Options Fair with DPIR; this now looks likely to happen in Trinity. In addition, I attended the NUS Course Rep Conference, took part in the Castle Mill demonstration as directed by OUSU Council, and have spoken about Castle Mill and other undergraduate issues at Divisional Board meetings. I have also attended and written reports for every OUSU Council meeting. I'm looking forward to more next term - in the meantime definitely get in touch if you think I can help you out with something!

Hilary Chow – Social Science – Postgraduate

1. The Library Committee has met on 20 February, and has the following items discussed:
Oxford Research Archive for Data

- Committee notes there will be collaboration with other departments on this.
Budget Savings and the Bodleian Strategic Financial Plan
- Committee notes that things have not been very well on this front with cuts coming year after year, and the cost-saving and income-generating work not enough to collect the sufficient funds.
- This year there is a further saving requirement.
- Strategies employed including not filling up vacancies.
- Next year is going to be worse, with staff and space budget going flat regardless of inflation.

- Law Library has contributed much to these efforts.
- Efficiency has been improved within the social sciences group of libraries, such as having one trained staff for all libraries.
- There will be interlibrary loans in the future.
- Administration is being streamlined.
- Reason is that the University wants surpluses in preparation to the anticipation that funding for higher education from the government might decrease in the future.
- Refurbishment of the St Cross Building
- Library spaces changed for the disciplines.
- Construction work is delayed, some materials will need to go off-site.
- Future of the Tylor Library
- The School of Anthropology is expected to move in 2018, and thus the future of the library is now being discussed.
- Future of the Radcliffe Science Library
- 60% of the current space's future functions is going to be discussed.
- Could have more workspace for graduates, café couches, etc.
- Proposal from the Bodleian Humanities Libraries to relocate the Taylor Bodleian Slavonic & Modern Greek Library (TABS) to the main building of the Taylor Institution Library in St Giles'
- Proposal from the Bodleian Humanities Libraries to relocate the Oriental Institute Library to the Sackler Library
- Bodleian Data Library
- Signposting on websites is going to be improved.
- Reports from the Subject Library Committees
- There is a survey on opening hours on the weekends. Result is that students want an increase in opening hours so they are going to look for some sources of funding for that.
- There will be a shifting of low or no use journals away from the open shelves.
- The warmth in the Social Sciences Library is going to be dealt with. There will be a reduction in temperature in the building.
- Minutes from the Curators of the University Libraries
- Different divisions and departments may be charged differently for the libraries.

The Bodleian Libraries 2013/14 Annual Report

Students' views are now being agenda-ed, so please send me any opinions you would like me to voice to the Committee.

2. I have attended an NUS conference in London on 21 February, and went to workshops on the following topics:

- Learning & Teaching
- General Election
- Widening access in education
- Feedback and assessment benchmarking tool
- Innovative Lectures

3. I have signed up to have breakfast with the Vice-Chancellor.

4. I have signed up to a course on dyslexia and learning with Lancaster University.

5. Please complete an OUSU survey on the quality of your experience at Oxford here:

<https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/direct/eval-evaluation/9740>

6. The Graduate Studies Committee met on 27 February to discuss the following:
- Consultation on a draft policy framework for the Department of Continuing Education
 - Education Committee consultation on adjustments for research degree examinations
 - Review of graduate admissions for 2014-15 entry
- Committee would like to communicate to students that many of the statistics on gender and ethnicity are available online.
- Review of Annual Programme Statistics
 - Assessment and feedback for PGT programmes
 - Postgraduate student discussion forum
 - DTC Management Board (DTCMB) report and update
 - Research degree policy changes
7. I have recommended that the lavatories at the Social Sciences Library to be changed to unisex lavatories as they no longer have urinals.
8. I have responded to scrutiny questions.

Julien Coyne – MPLS - Undergraduate

This being my first full term in this role, I felt as though I started with a good grasp of everything the role required of me. I diligently went to the (many!) MPLS committees the person in this role is obligated to go to, and with every meeting, felt like I learned more about how the university worked and what was going on in the division.

I was able to contribute to discussions on issues important to students, like exam marking criteria and feedback, and the future of libraries in the sciences. But I also felt as though there is so much more that someone like a div rep should be able to do. There are so many interrelated and nuanced issues in the university that affect students that just understanding them properly could be a full-time job (as I discovered while continuously learning and trying to synthesize new information in committees). Then undertaking independent projects and research, and communicating with the student representatives in departments, is a whole other level of important work. There's so much to be done - too much for one person (at least for me)! And luckily, there are lots of other people doing work, too - but it seems as though there still aren't structures in place (at least that I could take advantage of) to make it easy for these people to help each other.

Ultimately, it was a term of learning and contributing to discussions in MPLS, but also realizing my own limits as far as available time, and thinking hard about how the role itself could work better. I sincerely hope that next term I'll be able (especially wearing my Academic Affairs hat) to make some positive change toward making it easier to be a very effective div rep.