

# Reports to Council

## 7<sup>th</sup> Week Council Hilary 2016

Becky	Howe	President	Received
Ali	Lennon	VP Welfare & Equal Opps	Received
Lucy	Delaney	VP Women	Received
Nick	Cooper	VP Graduates	Received
Cat	Jones	VP Access & Academic Affairs	Received
Emily	Silcock	VP Charities & Community	Received
Tom	Wadsworth	Academic Affairs Campaign Officer	Received
Adam	Kellett	Access & Admissions Officer	Received
Hilal	Yazan	Black & Minority Ethnic Students Officer	Received
Eric	LeGresley	Clubs and Societies Support Officer	Received
Luke	Cave	Common Room Support Officer	Received
Yoni	Stone	Community Outreach & Charities Officer	Received
Fairlie	Kirkpatrick Baird	Environment & Ethics Officer	Received
Bo	Zhang	Grad Academic Affairs Officer	Received
Gabe	Rusk	Grad International Students Officer	Received
Rebecca	Kuperberg	Grad Welfare Officer	Received
Kirthi	Bellamkonda	Grad Womens' Officer	Received
Katy	Haigh	Health & Welfare Officer	Received
Meera	Sachdeva	International Students Officer	Received
Catherine	Kelly	LGBTQ Officer	
Dorkina	Myrick	Mature Students' Officer	Received
Ronak	Patel	Disabled Students' Officer	Received
Holly	Roy	Student Parents and Carers' Officer	Received
Jessy	Parker Humphreys	Trans Officer	Received

## Sabbatical Officers

### Becky Howe – President

It's been a really hectic couple of weeks; with lots of pledge-related work on top of the usual uni committees that I sit on. I'll outline some of the major things I've been working on:

- **Welfare Survey** launched on Friday of 5<sup>th</sup> week. At the time of writing this (Monday of 7<sup>th</sup> week AM), we've **nearly reached 3000 responses**. This is our highest response rate to a survey ever, so I'm predictably incredibly excited. However, there is still a lot to do:
  - Survey is open until Friday of 9<sup>th</sup> week, so we have just over two weeks to keep encouraging people to take part
  - At the moment, **the vast majority of respondents are undergrads**. Please please please, **if you are a grad student/represent grads**, keep promoting the survey as much as you can, so that the data we get for grads is as useful as possible.
- **PLEDGE COMPLETED: Oxford Students' Festival**. This happened on Saturday, and it was really cool. We had a lot of great performances and stalls, international cuisine, and Student Awards in the evening. It was really fantastic to see so many students sharing their interests and talents with their peers, and we also had a lot of members of the local community coming in. Turnout was undoubtedly affected by Torpids; I started planning the Festival back in July '15, and ensured that we wouldn't clash with Torpids, but unfortunately Torpids was moved by a week when we'd already made lots of bookings and couldn't change the date. But overall I'm happy with how the day went – especially as it's the first event of its kind that's happened in the University! I will be writing an evaluative document this week so that next year, if my successor decides to organise the Festival again, he'll have lots of pointers and ideas on how to make it bigger and better.
- **Lad Culture**: last Friday, Lucy and I spoke with the women who are running the NUS Lad Culture Audit pilot scheme, which we're taking part in. We've got some solid plans on things we can do to tackle lad culture at uni, and these should be coming to fruition early next term.
- **Student IT Innovation**: on Friday of 5<sup>th</sup> week, I sat on the judging panel for the Student IT Innovation challenge. In this, students pitch their projects relating to IT – websites, apps, etc – and the panel decide whether to fund them. There were some amazing presentations, and I was really excited to have been able to see them and support student innovation!

Wow. It's already the final Council of Hilary. What is this. I've found this term really great, with my two major pledges happening (welfare audit and festival). Excited for next term now!

Love,  
Becky xxx

## **Ali Lennon – VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities**

Dear Council,

Below are some points of what I've been working on the past fortnight:

- Health and Safety – last week was the university committee for managing health and safety. Topics of discussion which may be of interest included the occupational health support available to PGR/PGT students, year abroad and fieldwork safety and support, the addition of student representation to the Health Advisory Protection Group (a sub-group of the main health and safety committee) etc.
- Mental Health – I've been to the Student Mental Health Forum in which some exciting discussion and networking took place. I've also had the first meeting for the College Mental Health Policy Working Group which is very exciting, as a group we're looking to see what the University can provide, how should it provide support, and who is responsible for what. So far the working group seems very promising and we should hopefully be able to expect some positive developments from this working group in the medium to long term.
- Proctors – I attended the review panel for which I submitted a paper on the subject of the role of the Proctors and the issues within the office. The paper was fairly well received and with Nick, Cat and Becky we answered questions on our perception of the office and what we thought could be done to improve it. I also attended the Committee for the Proctors' Office as Cat was unable to attend.
- PREVENT – this has taken up a great deal of my time this week. On the 1st of March I'll be giving a briefing to CR Presidents and other relevant officers on what to lobby for in their colleges. I've also been in a number of discussions with the CRAE leadership and the BME & Anti-Racism Officer about how we should proceed with the University on Prevent related issues. We're also going to be launching a working group to lead the efforts on political opposition on the 1st. This issue has been very difficult to deal with and has taken a great deal of my time, I'm very appreciative of the support I've received from the sabb team especially the President.
- College Welfare – I've attended two meetings at the request of a college relating to welfare provision in individual colleges. Both were very productive and OUSU was able to offer some guidance and support.
- Welfare Survey – I've been supporting Becky with this project and have written to all JCR Presidents about their progress, Nick has very kindly written to many MCR Presidents. I'm astounded by the levels of response but am eager to see more graduate involvement and I am looking at a new strategy of soliciting responses via our network of course reps.
- PTE – Very big thank you to Rebecca, Catherine and Hilal for assisting with the welfare survey focus groups.
- Emails – there's always a lot of emails.

I've also been doing lots of little tasks. Email me on [vpweo@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vpweo@ousu.ox.ac.uk) if you have any questions.

Best,

Ali

## **Lucy Delaney – VP Women**

### Online Women's Officer Folder

The new Women's Officer folder is up and running! This folder gives Women's Officers access to all the resources I have relating to being a Women's Officer and liberation officer in general, and also resources from other colleges and Women's Officers e.g useful motions, crib sheets, guides, FAQs, training, presentations etc. In the coming weeks I will be adding more resources on gender neutral toilets, trans officers, women's officers, safe spaces, zero tolerance, harassment, sanitary products, contraception, closed spaces etc.

### Women's Officers

This term I have had great success linking up Women's Officers to give them a chance to share success and problems, form new connections and share best practice and resources. We will be having one more social at the end of this term.

### Data Collection

A lot of my data on colleges and their various schemes and policies relating to women students is now slightly out of date, so I have begun to collect data, which will be complete in a few weeks, and which I will use next term to chase up other colleges who lack important schemes and policies.

### Harassment Working Group

Two years ago, my predecessor, my predecessor before that and WomCam set up a harassment policy working group of women's officers and students to encourage colleges to update their policies. Since then, the University has updated their policy and many other colleges did too. However, some colleges still haven't updated and some colleges have failed to report back on the stage they're at and my data is now slightly out of date. Therefore, I'm reviving the working group, which will meet at the end of this term to be launched fully at the start of next term.

### Lad Culture audit

I am pleased to announce that Becky and I, having met with the NUS, now have solid plans for implementing the lad culture pilot audit scheme, which will be carried out early next term.

## **Nick Cooper – VP Graduates**

Evening, Council! Apologies for the lack of usual formatting this week - I'm in a Departmental review (see below) with only my iPad to tap this on. With another term almost over, here is how the last fortnight has looked, and what I'm up to over the vacation. As ever, get in touch if you have questions or suggestions.

Masters focus groups - this was one of my main manifesto pledges. I've set up a number of

focus groups (just into double figures) and am trying to set up a few more to get towards 20 in total. The ones I've held so far have been really useful for seeing the strengths and weaknesses students perceive in the Masters courses they're on. Over the vacation, I'll send out a survey to assess student satisfaction more broadly, and will then combine all this together into a report for the University to push for change.

Common Room support - I met with both undergraduate and graduate Common Room Presidents as part of their regular meetings, which is always really useful. I've finally collated together data from all the graduate Common Rooms and sent it out to Presidents to help them see where they fit within the wider network. I'll be meeting up with new Presidents over the vacation and into early Trinity term.

Internal work & governance - Along with other Sabbatical officers, I've been meeting and emailing with people about our proposed changes to Exec. Many thanks to everyone who got in touch - all views were very welcome, and have produced some very useful amendments. We want Exec to work best for representing students, and I hope this will do this.

International Festival - this was a great success, and the food stalls in particular went down a real treat. Congratulations to Becky for overseeing such a great event generally in the festival as a whole, and many thanks to all who came and especially all the stall holders for getting involved.

Committee work - as ever a key part of my role. Some highlights include the university's Education Committee, and the new Postgraduate Researcher Development Group, to discuss how better to support DPhil students in skills development and career planning. Any thoughts on this very welcome!

I've also been writing papers on college advisors and a response to a recent consultation on the Graduate Supervision System (GSS) for taking to committees. Happy to share these on request after 8th week. Finally I'm currently sitting on the review of the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies - these take up two days, but are a very useful way to see how departments work - and to improve them for students in the future.

Have a great Easter and see you on the other side!  
Nick

### **Cat Jones – VP Access and Academic Affairs**

**Alternative Prospectus.** It is live and fully mobile/tablet compatible so you can check it out right now - [apply.ousu.org](http://apply.ousu.org)! We have distributed 30,000 flyers directly to 6,000 schools with little history of sending students to Oxford. The university have also requested 8,000 flyers to give out at their student conferences across the country so we are reaching huge numbers of applicants. A huge thanks to everyone that has been involved.

**Suspended Status.** At last council I reported on our survey of students with first-hand experience of suspension. We have now used the responses to produce a paper for Senior Tutors' Committee. The pressure from SusCam has helped ensure that suspension is the ONLY item on the agenda at Senior Tutors' Committee's meeting in week 9. We are also in the

process of finalising guidance for tutors on how to compassionately guide students through the process of suspension and we have begun to put together an information booklet for students who suspend. Both of these projects are being supported by the Student Advice Service

**Supporting Common Room Reps.** This week I am hosting the final Access Rep Forums and Academic Rep Forums of term. I have also attended JCR Presidents' Committee and MCR Presidents' committee. If you want support with any college-level projects that fall within my remit, please get in touch ☺

**Committees.** A big part of my job is representing you on numerous committees. The last 2 weeks have been particularly committee-heavy. Since my last reported I have attended – and contributed to – the following committees on your behalf: Outreach Officers Forum; Education Committee; Senior Tutors' Committee; Admissions Executive; Student Attainment Gap Working Group; Working Group on Regionalisation; Access Target Working Group Outreach Stream; Undergraduate Panel; Contextual Data Working Group; MPLS Joint Consultative Forum; Quality Assurance Sub Committee.

### **Emily Silcock - VP Charities and Community**

Hi Council, Here's what I've been up to over the last couple of week.

#### *RAG*

We've elected a new RAG exec and committee – I'm really exciting about working with them over the new few months. The RAG Charity ballot is now open, so please vote for the charities that you care about. We've also got 7 micro-interns coming in in 7<sup>th</sup> week to help us make a competitive bid for the 2017 RAG Conference.

#### *Environment and Sustainability*

I've been continuing to look at Food waste in colleges and I've set up a working group of people interested in tackling this issue. We're looking at doing a survey to assess what the situation currently is, as well as providing resources for E&E reps on how to do thing like getting food recycling in student kitchens.

I've been working with Just Love to organise collections of food (for the Community Emergency Foodbank) and anything else (for the BHF) in 8<sup>th</sup> week. We've got a rep in every undergraduate college but one \*cough\* Pembroke \*cough\*.

#### *'Create a Campaign' Challenge*

The final stage of my Campaigning for Change training course is happening on Friday! Small groups will have 7 hours to run a micro-campaign on an issue provided by a local charity. I'm really excited to see this happen

#### *Festival*

I hope you all enjoyed the festival last weekend! I was in charge of craft, which was, obviously, excellent. Shout out to Emma Andrews for being a crafty star.

### *How Fair is Fairtrade?*

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight, I'm running a panel debate on the topic of 'How Fair is Fairtrade?' It's going to be at Christchurch on Thursday at 6.30pm.

### *Community Wardens*

The Community Warden have been fabulous this term. They've been running a litter campaign, as this is one of the major issues that residents raise. We're also in the process of recruiting two new wardens.

### *Oxford Hub*

And finally... I've been having some really productive conversations with the Oxford Hub about how we can work together better. Watch this space!

As always, get in touch at [ypcandc@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ypcandc@ousu.ox.ac.uk)!

## **Part-Time Executive Officers**

### **Tom Wadsworth – Academic Affairs Campaign Officer**

Hi all,

I have been focusing on SusCam again, we are really close to getting the senior tutors to change something (hopefully)! Therefore are focusing all efforts on getting things ready for the senior tutors meeting in 9th week. Have also helped out with the organisation of socials and the student societies fair for SusCam as well. Met with the sabs for really long (over 2 hours!) discussion about the exec changes with a few other people as well and have decided upon amendments.

### **Adam Kellett – Access and Admission Officer**

Not much going on this week: will have helped Cat with the access rep forum by the time of council - will bring up new law-based changes which will have an impact on access work, while looking towards ways to link together access initiatives. Target Schools still ticking along happily as well, getting organised with the summer roadshows that we're running ourselves, and helping colleges with their own roadshows. Once again, we'll be having a Steering Group to evaluate how we're doing.

### **Hilal Yazan – BME Students Officer**

I attended a meeting on Prevent, to help plan the briefing which will take place on Tuesday. I organised a BME rep meetup, at two separate times so as many reps as possible could attend - to discuss any ideas they may have for their common rooms and also the Tutor for Race. I'm now preparing to talk about the Tutor for Race at 8th week prescom, which should be good. I've also attended CRAE meetings - we're organising a social for Tuesday of 8th week, it'd be great if as many people as possible could come along!

### **Eric LeGresley – Clubs and Societies Support Officer**

Over the last 2 weeks, I have been settling into my role as the Clubs and Societies officer. I have met with my Sabbatical officer as well as several people interested in setting up clubs. I have also corresponded through email with several people interested in setting up clubs (and in one case selected a Senior member for a club). I am in the process of generating a flowchart for setting up a club that will be posted on the Proctor's office clubs website.

### **Luke Cave – Common Room Support Officer**

Hi council. The survey is underway and I am working with the VP (Access and Academic Affairs), Cat, to include questions on vacation residents and grants, as this is something that has large differences between colleges. Slight delays with the OUSU Update so I'll be sending this out as an end-of-term one instead. I also aim to meet with the OUSU Reps from your common rooms next week. I hope you've all had a great Hilary term and are looking forward to the vac!

### **Yoni Stone – Community Outreach and Charities Officer**

Oxford Donors finally has a bank account and so is very close to becoming a registered Society with the university, which is beneficial both in terms of funding and in terms of the continuation of the long-term continuity of the project. I am also in contact with NHSBT in the hope of getting a joint event together for the beginning of next term. More news on this to come soon hopefully...

### **Fairlie Kirkpatrick Baird – Environment and Ethics Officer**

Hi Council!

Mostly this week I've just been focussing on developing the Guide to Being a Sustainable Student. I had a two very productive meetings with committee members in which we discussed the research they had done for potential sections, including food, clothing/fashion, and reuse/recycling. Our primary focus at the moment is to finalise the sections and do as much research as possible in order to be sure we're providing the best advice possible. We're also trying to make our advice as accessible as possible to as many people as possible. We've settled on a general structure and have a lot of ideas for potential sections and layout. Going forward, we're looking to have basic research started and sections finalised by the end of term,

and will hope to have much of the research done by the beginning of Trinity so we can begin the editing process.

**Bo Zhang – Graduate Academic Affairs Officer**

For the past two weeks I have been working through documentations and emails from the previous year, transitioning to the role, as well as drafting a plan for a better utilization of college advisers.

**Gabe Rusk – Graduate International Students' Officer**

Dear Council,

A brief report this week. First and foremost, many thanks to all the students and societies who came out to support the Student Festival. Significant thanks to the sabbs and supporting staff who did quite a lot of work to make it a success. Second, as per the last report, my Trinity Term goal is to have increased MCR Reps for International Grad Students and progress is continually being made. This week a survey for MCR Presidents should go out with the intent of getting some responses in by the end of term. With this information I hope to lobby for increasing representation. Lastly, on a new front with the aid of the International Students Campaign we are launching into the early stages of a new event for Trinity Term. This event will be international graduate research symposium that will headline a keynote speaker. More details will come in my report come Trinity Term.

**Don't forget!** The International Students Campaign will be hosting a pub-crawl this coming Monday, March 7th. Please do join us whenever you can. Schedule: King Arms (8-9pm) Turf Tavern (9-10pm) and Lamb & Flag (10-11pm)

Best regards, Gabe Rusk

**Rebecca Kuperberg – Graduate Welfare Officer**

Hi Council,

This upcoming week I will be running a Grad Welfare officer focus group- for Grad Welfare Officers, let me know if you'd like to be involved! I have also been working on an event which will be taking place in 8th week. Please get in touch with any questions.

Rebecca

**Kirthi Bellamkonda – Graduates Womens' Officer**

I'm just polishing up a survey for grad women. It will hopefully get looked at this week by some of the women's officers and sent out asap.

**Katy Haigh – Health and Welfare Officer**

Dear Council,

Not much to report this week as I have been concentrating on catching up on academic work after being ill for the last week or so. Have been formatting leaflets for drugs harm reduction information to students and will be attending a meeting with The Sex Project to catch up with their work this term later this week.

### **Meera Sachdeva – International Students’ Officer**

This week I followed up on my meeting with the international reps by meeting with Nick (VP Graduates) to discuss how we can move forward. The key points we discussed and came up with action points on were:

1. On trying to have more international peer supporters: Nick to have word with Ali, VP WEO to speak to Counselling about the peer support selection process and about adding international issues to peer support training.
2. On getting international freshers to come to Oxford before freshers week: Nick to meet with Exam Schools to discuss if we can change the day of international orientation to have it prior to freshers week (a couple of days before) to encourage colleges to allow international students to come to Oxford early.
3. On International Week: Check which week in Michaelmas we can hold an International week. This will involve different colleges hosting an international event each day of that week.
4. On finding out which issues international students care about: Meera to create a short survey to be sent around to international students in Trinity.

I have yet to follow up with Nick on the results of the various meetings he has had, but we plan to do this soon.

### **Dorkina Myrick – Mature Students Officer**

#### **Activities Since Last Meeting**

I met with the executive committee of OUSU StudentsPlus on 15 February to plan activities for the remainder of the term. A brunch is tentatively scheduled for March 12. However, we are still working to finalize the location and budget.

We discussed potential activities for the remainder of the term after the brunch, including logistics for the St. Patrick’s Day social, an activity of Easter, and a welcoming “Trinity Tea” for the beginning of next term.

Rizwana Rashid and I met with Nick on 17 February to discuss OUSU StudentsPlus and Mature Student Officer plans for the remainder of the term and early into next term.

I attended the Executive Council meeting and shared OUSU StudentsPlus and my plans with them at the meeting on 23rd February.

OUSU StudentsPlus co-hosted a Taste of Thai event with the Oxford Thai Society at the Catholic Chaplaincy on Friday 26 February.

I partnered with OUSU StudentsPlus in participating at a booth for the organization at the OUSU Student Festival on 27 February. We spoke with students about the organization and held a raffle for prizes, as well.

I am also supporting OUSU StudentsPlus in their effort to establish a scholarship for a Bangladeshi Mature Student.

Please feel free to e-mail me at [maturestudents@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:maturestudents@ousu.ox.ac.uk) with questions, concerns, or comments.

Best,  
Dorkina Myrick

### **Ronak Patel – Disabled Students’ Officer**

There has been good progress to a start of a number of projects that I am to do during my tenure. Disability reps in various colleges have been in touch and the Facebook group with disability reps is now also being used to communicate future cross college projects such as accessibility assessments of colleges. Will be aiming to draft an accessibility checklist once the relevant information has been received and with the help of reps get this surveyed throughout colleges. Another important piece of work is the upcoming DSA awareness workshop I will be working on with Ali Lennon over the holiday hopefully towards the beginning of next term it should be ready to go.

### **Holly Roy – Student Parents and Carers’ Officer**

Main points:

- Maternity leave
- Childcare steering committee
- NUS student parents event
- Hackathon

Maternity leave

A meeting with Ard Louis and Jane Sherwood has been organised for this week to discuss options about maternity leave for students whose funding does not cover this

Childcare steering committee meeting

I attended the childcare steering committee meeting last week and represented the needs of student parents, particularly over increasing childcare costs at certain University nurseries

NUS student parents’ event

This will be on 4<sup>th</sup> March in London- 2 Oxford student parents will be attending as I am unable to go. I am looking forward to their feedback and ideas.

Hackathon

Oxford Students For Life are organising a student parents' event on Monday of 8<sup>th</sup> week. This will be a data collection evening where different college websites will be scrutinized to get an idea of how welcoming they are to student parents and their children. The results of this event will inform how we address the issue of encouraging colleges to become more student parent friendly.

### **Jessy Parker Humphreys – Trans Officer**

Over the past fortnight, I met with the Equality and Diversity Unit to discuss how we can push the Trans Policy forward into more colleges. Their advice was basically that they had no advice so I am now going back to the drawing board on how best to continue this. Next term I hope to be getting in contact with JCR/MCR Presidents to persuade them to take the Trans Policy to their relevant college committees. I have also begun restructuring the policy to make it easier for colleges to understand what they are signing up for

### **OUSU Campaigns**

#### **Tiana Diaz – It Happens Here**

It Happens Here have had a busy term and our new committee members have organised some great events. We had a panel discussion on sexual violence in the LGBTQ+ community and a similar discussion about sexual violence against men which we ran in conjunction with Mind Your Head. We also held a film screening of The Hunting Ground and hosted speakers from the US in a panel discussion after the film. Finally, we visited a local school and ran a consent workshop for their Year 13s. Our main expenses this term have been travel expenses for our speakers and materials for our events - we currently have £137.12 left in our budget.

#### **Farheen Ahmed – Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality (CRAE)**

CRAE events/co-hosted events this term:

- Weekly CRAE meetings
- End of term CRAE social
- Co-hosting and supporting a Holocaust Memorial Day Lecture with the Chabad Society
- Co-hosting and supporting Israeli Apartheid Week 2016

CRAE expenditures:

- CRAE Social (food/drinks/room) – £100

**Previous Expenditures MT 2015 - £290.35 (Literature) --> Remaining Budget - £209.65**

**Jacob Vivian and Anna Seccombe – On Your Doorstep**

The biggest focus of our campaign this term was the proposed County Council cuts against the Housing Related Support budget of £1.5m or 65%. OYD helped coordinate the student campaign against these cuts and we advertised the ‘Enough is Enough’ protest, which occurred on the Tuesday of 2<sup>nd</sup> week, to students in the university mainly through social media. The Saturday before the protest, a group of around 8 students ran a stall on Cornmarket Street to raise awareness about the cuts and get extra signatures. Around 50-100 more people signed the petition as a result of this. We also submitted a motion to OUSU Council which was passed to provide £200 to Aspire to help fund materials for placards for the protest. The protest, which was organised by a conglomeration of different groups opposing the cuts, was attended by around 40+ members from the different main student homeless groups in Oxford including OYD, HAG, Just Love, Companions of the Order of Malta, and THAG. It was also attended by numerous people from other organisations, and one of the protest ringleaders said it was one of the largest protests they’d seen in Oxford. OYD also wrote an article in the Cherwell in order to raise awareness about the cuts and one of our members was interviewed by a Cherwell crew at the protest.

A second protest was held on the Tuesday of 4<sup>th</sup> week. Again, OYD was very much involved in advertising this campaign on social media to other students. This protest wasn’t as well attended by students (around 10-20) as the other protest due we think to the time (9:15am) and protesting fatigue, but overall the protest was still well-attended.

This term, OYD has also launched two new campaigns to help educate students and raise awareness among them about homelessness. The first was our ‘Real Change?’ poster campaign that was started last term in order to try and create a more positive version of the City Council’s own ‘Your Kindness Can Kill’ campaign. At the start of this term, we printed 100 of these new posters to be put up around the different colleges. The second initiative was the Streets of Oxford Facebook page and Instagram account. Members of the campaign had the idea to go out and interview homeless people and put their stories on social media so that people could get a taste of what it is like to be homeless and how people end up on the streets. Since the pages were first created on January 26, 2016, the Facebook page has gotten 261 likes and the Instagram account has 91 followers.

In 6<sup>th</sup> week, OYD was one of a number of homeless services and student homeless groups involved in Oxford Hubs Student Volunteering Week. We again advertised about the events on social media. On the Tuesday of 6<sup>th</sup> week, we were one of the groups at the Homeless Volunteering Fair and we told people about our group, and also handed people envelope packets we made with a list of homeless volunteering opportunities and also our reduced size version of our ‘Real Change?’ poster campaign. We gave out around 20 of these.

Finally, just yesterday on the Saturday of 6<sup>th</sup> week, we found out that OYD had won ‘Campaign of the Year’ at the OUSU Student Awards.

### **Finances**

Budget carried over from MT15:		£104.55
Expenditure HT16:	Posters <sup>1</sup>	£27
	Printing <sup>2</sup>	£2.40
	Envelopes <sup>3</sup>	£10.89
	Total	£40.29
Remaining budget:		£64.26

### **Rizwana Rashid – STUDENTSplus**

OUSU StudentsPlus co-hosted a Taste of Thai event with the Oxford Thai Society at the Catholic Chaplaincy on Friday 26 February.

StudentsPlus participated at a booth at OUSU Student Festival on 27 February. We spoke with students about the organization and offered a raffle for prizes, as well.

StudentsPlus is supporting the effort to establish a scholarship for a "Dr Harun Ur Rashid Memorial Scholarship at Oxford" fund to establish one three-year College-fee DPhil scholarship at St Cross college for a Bangladeshi student.

Here is the link, [gofundme.com/97rcq5f8](https://gofundme.com/97rcq5f8)

A brunch is tentatively scheduled for March 12 at Mansfield College. However, we are still working to finalize the location and budget.

Potential activities for the remainder of the term after the brunch, including logistics for the St. Patrick’s Day social, an activity of Easter, and a welcoming “Trinity Tea” for the beginning of next term.

We are doing alright budget wise per term.

### **Sam Pugh – Oxford Students’ Disability Community (OSDC)**

The majority of our resources this term were focused on our Disability Awareness Week, a week of events designed to raise awareness of different aspects of disability and based around the theme of “disability, not inability”.

The events we ran were:

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<sup>1</sup> Posters – for the rebranding of the ‘Your Kindness Could Kill Campaign’. 100 posters. No VAT.

<sup>2</sup> Printing – 100 A5 black and white posters and 100 copies of a document detailing volunteering opportunities in Oxford for Volunteering Week event.

<sup>3</sup> Envelopes – for the above to be put in.

- Workshop on Mental Health and Feminist Intersections (Joint Event with WomCam)
- Art for the Heart (DAW Special)
- Film Screening: 'Frida' - a movie about the incredible Frida Kahlo, a very talented artist and person of colour who experienced multiple disabilities and who was openly bisexual. We are big big fans of her over at OSDC and love her very much <3 <3 <3 <3 <3 <3



- Sports and Disability Panel, featuring:
  - - Hayley Ginn, a trainer of Paralympic athletes
  - - Sam Eardley, a paraplegic student at St Catherine's College who currently the Captain of college and University Pool and Snooker teams
  - - Representatives from Hall training systems, a company that uses sports as form of treatment, looking at adaptable ways of doing sports based on individual disabilities
- Talk: Optional Vulnerabilities, a talk on Prosthesis and the idea of amputees as “inspirational” featuring:
  - Penny Pan: A recipient of the prestigious Said Foundation Scholarship, Penny Pan is an MBA candidate at the Said Business School, University of Oxford. Penny received her BSc (Hons) in Economics from the University of Birmingham, UK, and MA in Economics from the Pennsylvania State University, U.S.A. Penny worked in management consulting and private equity since 2010. Penny is a left below knee amputee for over 14 years and is active in raising awareness for limb loss. She was selected to become the Global Ambassador for Ossur, the world’s second largest prosthetic solution provider in June 2015.
  - Laura Diment: Laura received a John Monash Scholarship, Australia’s most prestigious postgraduate award, to undertake her doctorate in Engineering Science at the University of Oxford. Her doctoral research is on improving the comfort of prosthetic sockets while reducing the cost. Previously, Laura worked for 2 years as a biomedical engineer for the Medical Device Partnering Program in South Australia, where she designed, prototyped and tested novel medical and assistive devices. She has also lectured and tutored for 3 years at the School of Computer Science Engineering and Mathematics at Flinders University, teaching a range of engineering topics including Engineering Design, Biomechanics and Biomedical Instrumentation. In a volunteer role with Motivation Australia, Laura has worked as a biomedical engineer in Papua New Guinea to train technicians in wheelchair assembly and fitting.

- Self-Care Drop-In Session (Including: guests from Lush who gave free hand massages, Art for the Heart, and Mindfulness Stations)
- Disability, Not Inability Talent Showcase, featuring Freja, a young singer/songwriter who often writes about her experiences of mental health
- Art for the Heart Exhibition, showcasing pieces created in Art for the Heart, our mental health themed art support group, and submissions from members of the community.

We were also invited to speak at the 42 Bedford Row Disability Law Essay Prize Giving Ceremony.

Whilst turnout for one or two events was lower than hoped, most events were well attended and we had an increase in attendance from last year. We are hoping it will continue to grow. The events were very well enjoyed by those in attendance and we found that over the course of the week we had a steady stream of new members joining our community Facebook group and we saw a lot of fresh faces at the events which was fantastic and showed that we achieved our aim of reaching new people.

We have also had elections this term. Results are as follows:

President:

Sam Pugh - 100%

Re-Open Nominations - 0%

Pugh was voted in as President.

Vice-President:

Susanna Riley - 88.2%

Re-Open Nominations - 11.8%

Susanna Riley was voted in as Vice-President.

Treasurer:

Kathryn Reece - 94.1%

Re-Open Nominations - 5.9%

Kathryn Reece was voted in as Treasurer.

Mental Health Officer:

Jessie See - 100%

Re-Open Nominations - 0%

Jessie See was voted in as Mental Health Officer.

Events Officer:

Emma Beddall - 94.1%

Re-Open Nominations - 5.9%

Emma Beddall was voted in as Events Officer.

IT/Publicity Officer:

Shannon Louise Guild - 94.1%

Re-Open Nominations - 5.9%

Shannon Guild was voted in as IT/Publicity Officer.

Despite extending the nomination deadline we have a number of elected positions left unfilled. These are Secretary, Advocacy Officer, LGBTQ Officer, BAME Officer, Women's Officer, International Students' Officer and College Disability Reps Officer. We will be looking to run a second set of elections shortly, but for the mean time the roles will be absorbed into the general committee and we will look to working with LGBTQ Cam, CRAE and WomCam to cover our missing liberation officers (prior to the election our liberation officers were also coincidentally the elected disability officers in the other liberation campaigns).

We have a number of general committee members continuing in their roles and we are hoping to welcome one or two new members over the next few weeks.

Art for the Heart, run by the wonderful Jessie See, who has just been re-elected as our Mental Health Officer, was nominated for an OUSU Students' Award for best creative project. We are so proud of Jessie and everything she has achieved, and of all the people who have attended Art for the Heart and helped make it into the fantastic and supportive community it is :)

Our plans for next term are to continue campaigning against DSA Cuts and imposed charges on students as a result of these cuts, continuing our bi-weekly events and Art for the Heart sessions, and we will be adding more content to our website. We are hoping to have a committee meeting this week to discuss our further plans, so watch this space!

### **Marcelo Gennari do Nascimento – International Students Campaign**

This term the international students campaign was focused on attracting people to our team. We had elected two new officers (Communications Officer and Entz Officer) that will hopefully help us a lot in future events. We are having meetings every two weeks or so to organize events and planning to organize a conference aimed at international studies. From last term, the campaign has evolved quite a lot taking into account that we started from zero.

We also helped in the International Students Fair, where we contributed with £150 to make sure the national societies could join without paying any fare. The International Students Fair was a very nice opportunity to meet with different societies and talk about our problems. Not all the major national societies showed up, but the ones that did had a great time and loved getting involved.

For next term we are aiming to attract more people to the campaign and try to make it big again. We are planning a conference for the beginning of Trinity term, which we will organize with OUSU Graduate Students Rep.

### **Henri Willberg and Claire Fleming – Living Wage Campaign**

The focus of the Living Wage campaign this term has been on maximising conversations with common rooms and assisting college-based campaigns in getting their groundwork done and negotiating with their authorities. Unlike previous terms, we decided not to run a speaker event so that we could focus our time in this respect.

We've been busy updating our 'Living Wage: Best Practice guide' which offers advice and information for new college campaigns, which we can distribute to whoever wants, collecting useful testimonies, case studies and FAQs. Additionally to this, we ran a 'Living Wage Workshop' which was well attended to try and kick start interest in colleges, and have been meeting individually with different college campaigns. We would like to continue doing this next term and branch out to colleges who have yet to accredit as Living Wage employers and with whom we have had no contact with in the past. We have lots of data collected from recent FOIs and would urge anyone who would be interested in starting up a college campaign to get in touch! (We meet at OUSU at 5pm every Thursday, and anyone is welcome to turn up!).

We'll have a large proportion of our campaign team leaving at the end of this academic year, so would really like to see some new faces as well!

### **Vivian Holmes – LGBTQ Campaign**

The main thing the LGBTQ Campaign's done this term was put together our zine for LGBTQ History Month in February. We got a good number of really varied submissions (mostly poetry in the end which was nice) and got a good group of people banding together to piece it together, including a bunch of new faces, which is always nice given how inward-facing a lot of LGBTQ events can be. There should be a launch for that at some point in 8<sup>th</sup> week, potentially in the Oxford Hub so come along to that!

We've had various elections and have got a bunch of new faces in the committee after our big open meeting at the start of term that went really well. We bought a badge-maker last term and had an event with that that had a good group of people coming along, and have also been in the process of finishing off our campaign, which just needs finishing off now.

Committee members have generally been quite busy this term so we've achieved less than we set out to: It's been a long-term aim to co-host an anti-pinkwashing event with PalSoc that was vaguely planned to coincide with Israeli Apartheid Week but that fell through in planning stages; the liberation library (in cooperation with other liberation campaigns) is in the pipeline but there's a load of logistical stuff with checking everything for trigger warnings etc. that will take more time than we planned, although we've had some great events still!

We had Queer Strike come speak in Wadham on LGBTQ Asylum seekers where two queer women came and spoke about their struggles with new government policy, one who had successfully sought asylum and one who was in the process of doing so.

We set up a Queer Women's discussion group with WomCam on alternate Saturdays that's opened up a place for an informal discussion of issues that didn't have a forum already.

Our most recent event has been with Opening Doors London, a network of elderly LGBTQ people, and we had a group of them come for an open lunch to chat with students and anybody else who wanted to come along, and we got a really good turnout for that with loads of interesting stories shared that was really well received.

It's now a year on from the campaign starting up again and it's been a great year for us, we've achieved a lot and there's been all sorts of stuff going on, from more overtly political stuff to more self-care/crafty events, generally raising the profile of queer issues in and outside of OUSU. Plans for the future include substantial action on the cuts to LGBTQ services in Oxfordshire. Some of the best stuff we've done has been cooperating with other liberation campaigns, and it'd be great to keep up links with CRAE, WomCam and OSDC more.

We spent £35 on subsidising the Queer Women's discussion group's trip to see Carol, and £25 on Pizza for our first open meeting, then we got funding from Wadham and OUSU to donate to Queer Strike and fund their travel expenses, then we spent £60 on travel expenses and food for Opening Doors London, and our zine funding costs will be about £120. This leaves us with slightly less money for next term but generally fewer events happen in Trinity anyway because of prelims/finals.

## **Committees**

### **Kirthi Bellamkonda – Representative to the Health and Safety Consultative Committee**

The VP of Welfare and I attended the termly meeting for the committee, this time a joint meeting of multiple university committees. We plan to push some topics discussed, especially those of occupational health for postgraduates, accountability in overseas travel at the university level, and student representation on other H&S committees with the appropriate authorities in the following weeks.