

OUSU

reports to council

7th week & termly council michaelmas term 2009

Stefan Baskerville

President

Common Rooms

Attended Christ Church JCR meeting.

Attended Prescom. Issues discussed included student representation at Conference of Colleges, JCR committee structures, review of complaints and appeals, access and outreach work across colleges.

University

Met with the Proctors to discuss the review of disciplinary procedures. Useful and productive meeting which will inform our work on the review itself.

Attended University Council.

Met with Felicity Cooke, Head of Equality and Diversity Unit, Sian Renwick, Gender Equality Officer, and Leyla Okhai, Race Equality Officer, along with the rest of the sabbatical team, to discuss a range of issues affecting equality in Oxford.

HE Funding

Organised a morning of leafleting by CR Presidents and others on the issue of fees. Special thanks to Alice Heath for organizing the people into the right places and hosting us during the early start! Positive response from students, I am told.

Led a team of people to London – Jake Leeper, Daniel Stone, Portia Roelofs, Hannah Cusworth, Stephen Curtis, Tom Scott, Lewis Goodall – to lobby MPs on the issue, and secured a pledge from both Evan Harris and Andrew Smith to vote against increased fees in the next parliament and to lobby the government for a fairer alternative.

Miscellaneous

Attended the first and second meetings of the Strategic Review Group.
Helped run the annual statutory elections.

**Dani Quinn
Opportunities)**

V-P

(Welfare

and

Equal

Hello Council,

Goodbye and good luck to those of you for whom it's your last Council - thanks for your contributions!

Let me know if you've any questions or feedback about the items below.

Dani x

Common Room Support

Met with 1 JCR President, 2 JCR Equal Opps Reps and 2 MCR Welfare Officers.

With Kat, ran a Supporters' Session for students supporting a friend or peer with Disordered Eating. This received very positive feedback and will hopefully be run at least once a year, if not on a termly basis.

Continuing to prep for the Advocacy Training in 7th Week with Jonny - we are *well* excited about it
Organised and hosted training for LGBTQ reps with Oxford Friend - this was really interesting and got positive feedback. There was a good turnout, especially from reps I had never before met.

Representation

Committee for Student Health and Welfare: attended, and submitted a paper to, CSHW. The paper was concerned with the (lack of) policy for College Doctors and Nurses regarding sexual health and family planning, with special emphasis on LGBTQ sexual health.

Complaints and Appeals: Jonny is leading on the submission, but I have contributed to it

Fitness to Study: this is a joint project for the Student Advice Service. I am contributing papers on (i) the questions posed by the working group, (ii) a focus group with the relevant members of the OUSU Exec and (iii) case studies from former students. Have secured informal support for student representation on this working group

Landlord Accreditation Scheme: working with Stefan to gather and distil responses from students, and turn these into a comprehensive and meaningful written submission.

Other Meetings/Working Groups

Proctors and Assessor (with Exec)

Elsa Bell, Head of Student Welfare - discussed details of training for Welfare Officers for coping with student tragedies, supervisions for Student Advice Service members and got advice for the Supporters' Session (see above).

Keith Zimmerman, Director of Student Administration and Services (with Kat) - discussed a range of issues, with focus on healthcare

Strategic Review Group - attended both meetings of this group

PresCom (JCR and MCR) - attended both. Did some of the minuting for MCR Prescom.

Welfare Committee - this was good, but the turnout was disappointing. We discussed the WalkSafe scheme, amongst other things.

Casework

It becomes ever more varied in nature, and right now it's lots of 'big' stuff. Please do come talk to us if you're a Common Room Officer and just want some advice - most of us have been there (or close)...

Projects

Sexual Health - designed posters on Oxford-based resources and distributed them to officers

Night Safety - met with Raeli Bronstein, who founded the scheme in Teddy Hall, to get advice on avoiding pitfalls this time

Courteous Construction - working on this with Dai (Graduate Welfare). Contacted the University Estates Office.

LGBTQ Careers (with Jasper) - met with Anne Dutton from the Careers Service about holding an event for LGBTQ students, to address the specific concerns they might have about careers/the workplace

Autonomous Campaigns

Attended two meetings of CRAE; printed and distributed flyers; regiteredd delegates for the NUS Black Students' Conference

LGBTQ Council - publicised their upcoming elections, met with Mohsin, the Chair

Training/Development

Attended a session of Management Support from OLI (in my capacity as manager of Lisa, the Student Advisor)

Attended two sessions of 'Train the Trainers' (training from OLI). This defied my initial scepticism and was very helpful.

Other

HE Funding Review: flyered colleges, printed and distributed flyers for presidents

Elections: put up posters to let people know about the elections and publicised them on mailing-lists, patrolled Colleges

Kat Wall

V-P (Women)

Hello Council,

Representation

- Have attended Gender Panel
- Have attended Gender Equality Scheme Steering Group
- Have attended Stereotype Threat Working Group
- Have attended Undergraduate Panel
- Have met with key members of the University
 - o Keith Zimmerman (Head of Student Services)
 - o Sally Mapstone (Pro-Vice Chancellor Equality and Personnel)
 - o Felicity Cooke (Head of the Equality and Diversity Unit)
 - o Sian Renwick (Gender Equality Officer for the University)
 - o Jonathan Black (Head of the Careers Service)
 - o Nancy Kenny (Head of Alumni Office)

Women in Student Politics

- Have organised and assisted at various workshops and informal sessions to encourage more women to get involved in JCR politics.
- Have taken the Hust Code of Conduct to OUSU Council and seen many colleges adopt it
- Have worked with Women's Officers to provide information and support to women in common rooms thinking about getting involved

Women's Officers

- Have produced women's officer packs with a collection of useful and updated publications such as the Women's Officer Handbook, the Women's Report, Student Parents Handbook, Unplanned Pregnancy Handbook, Eating Disorders Handbook. Love Without Chains and the Women's Handbook.
- Have run a weekly meeting for women's officers including training on topics such as 'active listening', 'running an effective campaign', 'how to handle college'.

Student Safety Campaign

- Have met with the Police and the City Council as well as representatives from Oxford Brookes, to discuss how we can improve student safety in Oxford.
- Out of these sessions we have decided to launch a University Walk Safe Scheme and have had initial planning session with Dani Quinn (VP Welfare) and the former organiser of the scheme at Teddy Hall.
- Working with the Police to go out to common rooms to give safety talks early next term alongside ensuring that information about the Safety Bus and safety tips are accessible to all students.

Sexual Health Campaign

- Having had a challenging time over the summer trying to lobby for a central sexual health clinic and being told that it would not be possible, the welfare members of the Exec have established a Sexual Health Provision Working Group.
- This group has surveyed welfare officers and found some shocking results concerning the inequality of provision. With these findings we are lobbying the University to establish a working group to assess provision
- Have worked with the OUSU exec to write and send out example motions to colleges to encourage them to reimburse the morning after pill, as well as get their college nurses to provide it.

Enough!

- Have been a co-ordinator of Enough! this term, reviewed our advertising strategy to make it less female focused and have had high turnout, suggesting this service is needed and wanted by students
- Have organised B-EAT training for the co-ordinators which we have all now taken and passed
- Have organised a support the supporters session for students supporting those with disordered eating

Welfare Publicity

- To ensure that students are aware of the welfare services OUSU provides I have been organising publicity for the Student Advice Service as well as Enough! and University services.
- Next term we are developing a welfare card for all students – I have been undertaking the research for the most useful, relevant and up to date numbers for students

Discreet Discrimination

- To raise awareness about discreet discrimination and the way it can influence people's aspirations and achievements I have written articles for the student press, Tone Magazine and raised the issue with significant members of the University including the Vice Chancellor who was very receptive to the issue. I want to take this forward next term by seeing what we can do to alter the status quo here at the University.

Gender Equality Week

- In 3rd Week this term I supported Portia in running the second gender equality week – this was a huge success. With over 15 different events on a range of issues.
- This inspired a lot of discussion surrounding issues of gender equality and has led to some brilliant spin off meetings and campaigns organised by a variety of groups.

Open Days

- Working with St John's to run the Women in Politics Open Day for Sixth Form girls. Speakers confirmed include Baroness Jay of Paddington and Emily Thornberry MP
- Working with Keble and MPLS to run the Women in Science Open Day for Sixth Form girls from inner city London. Speakers confirmed include the head of Science at Reading University, and a range of workshops including 'Engineering Your Future' and luminescence workshops from the Chemistry Department
- Working with Univ to run a Women in Humanities essay writing competition, the two best entries from each school being invited to Oxford for the day to have public speaking workshops at the Union and a debate in the afternoon, as well as receiving information about how to apply to Oxford.

Finals Forums and Study Skills

- Took a paper to Undergraduate Panel to encourage departments to run finals forums and study skills sessions. There was a great deal of interest in the finals forums and this has been sent to the divisions for greater detailed discussion and will be returned to in Hilary. Study Skills are thought to be better provided by colleges and the Panel is looking into best practice.

Springboard for Undergraduates

- Working with the Oxford Learning Institute, the Equality and Diversity Unit and the Careers Service to pilot Springboard, which is a personal and professional development programme for women.
- We have decided to pilot this scheme in Trinity Term for second year undergraduate women.
- We are seeking external funding and sponsorship for this

Assertiveness Training

- Working with Peggy Frith, former Springboard Trainer and professor in the Medical Sciences Division to run an assertiveness training scheme for female students
- This will be piloted in Hilary Term

Women in Academia

- Have organised a 'Women in Postgraduate Study' Event with the Careers Service which included a workshop on how to apply and was very successful
- Working with the Careers Service on a student survey to establish why fewer women than men go into certain professions including a focus on academia.
- Working with the Equality and Diversity Unit to promote female role models in departments across the University to show it can be done

Women in Careers

- Working with the Careers Service on a student survey about perceptions of various occupations and the extent to which they are discriminatory
- Initial findings are highly interesting and are directionally sound. We are using these findings to present concerns to Corporations and senior members of the University at the Inspiring Women conference next week.
- Working with the Careers Service and the Alumni Office to develop the 'women in...' series, where female rolemodels from a variety of professions will talk about how they got where they are today followed by a 'how to' workshop from the careers service.

Sarah Hutchinson

V-P (Graduates)

The last two weeks since council have been the usual rollercoaster ride between committee meetings and individual meetings, as well as trying not to drown in emails. Here are some highlights.

Funding review leafleting: as many of you will know, the morning after the last council we did a mass leafleting in Oxford to highlight the fees and funding review. It was a fantastic morning and I was sorry not to get into London. However, I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight the fact that the review will not just be looking at undergraduate issues, but will cover postgraduate fees and funding as well. In particular it's likely that the findings of the postgraduate review being carried out by Adrian Smith at the moment will feed into the fees and funding review, so if anyone has any thoughts that they feel should go towards the PG review, please get in touch.

University Skills Group: the name of this group has been changed from Graduate Skills Advisory group to reflect the fact that it is set up to oversee skills training for researchers – Dphil and postdocs – rather than graduate students as a whole. One of the key things to mention is the availability for online skills training courses which have been well used so far – in particular it may be useful to have a look at the online Plagiarism course (email graduates@ousu.org for more information) and the research Skills Toolkit which has had excellent feedback from second years DPhil students as well as first years, and which is being expanded and customised for different divisions.

NUS Postgraduate Reps meeting: On the 14th, I travelled to York to attend the NUS postgraduate meeting of postgraduate reps from around the UK. There were around 40 people there, and we were given a number of presentations and took part in a range of workshops. It was incredibly useful to hear how while there are similar problems with postgraduate education and representation across different universities, different ideas for improving engagement are being tried out. One that I am planning to look into is an online postgraduate forum, to give postgrads the flexibility to raise problems and ask questions that the termly postgraduate assembly does not.

Prac ICT:

MCR PresCom: The final MCR PresCom of term was held last Tuesday, and we had an incredibly useful discussion of ideas for the postgraduate review. We also discussed the complaints and appeals and fitness to study reviews, and I'd urge you to send your thoughts to Jonny asap if you haven't. We talked about the problems that the high proportion of PRT students vs PGR can cause withing MCRs, particularly with regards to filling exec positions and organising freshers' week. We also discussed the proposal for the OUSU President to be an observer at Conference of Colleges and MCR supported this proposal provided disaffiliated college views would be noted if they were in conflict with OUSU policy.

Graduate Admissions Committee: Updates on progress on changes to the admissions procedure were provided, in particular on the proposal that the original departmental offer letter should include information on the cost of the course. While there is general support for this proposal, it is proving difficult to find a division to pilot it, so it may be delayed.

We also discussed a proposal to increase the graduate application fee from £25 to £50. This is intended to cover the cost of processing applications as this money is not provided from elsewhere. However, there were

a number of concerns raised, and I reported that MCR Presidents were very concerned about the access implications of the proposal, and there was also confusion as to why this fee was being increased when the UG application fee had been removed. The proposal is now going to divisions for consultation and will come back at a later date. I'll keep you informed.

Heather Bell: I met with the Director of International Strategy and discussed amongst other things, the level of the Commonwealth Scholarship as these fall below the cost of living suggested by the University. She will be raising the concerns with the Commonwealth. I also raised the impact that exchange rate fluctuations can have on US loan levels which are calculated at one point in the year and can then fall short. We also discussed my concerns that some international graduate students are still being accepted before they have the English language skills necessary to fully integrate in the UK, and the impact this can have on their wellbeing and studies. We agreed there's no simple solution to this, but that it is something that the University should be continue to consider and monitor.

Education Committee: While this was mainly focused on undergraduate access issues, there was also discussion of a paper on graduate access. This is not an issue that has been looked at strategically in the past, and there's a recognition that it may be moving up the governments' agenda in light of the various reviews underway, as well as in context of the university's commitment to academic excellence and attracting the best students. We had a general introductory discussion, and I raised the concerns of MCR Presidents (amongst others) that there is insufficient funding to ensure that students from all backgrounds are able to apply. I also highlighted the paucity of research into postgraduates in the UK – there is no data on who undertakes postgraduate study, how they are funded, and what they go on to do. This is essential if we're to look seriously at access to postgraduate study.

Jonny Medland

V-P (Access & Academic Affairs)

So, it's the end of term, we've elected my successor and I'm officially a lame duck. And yet as you can probably tell from the number of e-mails you continue to get from me, activity at OUSU continues unabated. I'm writing this on the night of Thursday of 6th week, meaning that it's largely written in the future perfect tense but hopefully you'll take a look anyway.

General reflections on the term

- I suspect people think I'm either lying or mad when I say this, but working at OUSU really is a phenomenal job. I think we've got a lot done this term, and I hope that individual students and Common Rooms are noticing this. To be frank, I think that Hilary and Trinity are going to see an uptick in visible activity as we've found our feet and there's a lot coming up including higher education funding, a review of complaints and appeals, a general election and much more besides. It's going to be awesome. Congratulations to everyone who has been elected in our elections, both to incoming sabbats and especially to the incoming Exec. You're a very talented bunch of people and I'm really looking forward to working with you in the two terms I have left. I'd also just like to thank our permanent staff and my 5 sabbatical colleagues – it's been awesome working with you this term and I'm so excited about what we're going to do together over the 6 months we have left.
-
- But since you're probably more interested in what I've been doing...

Common Room Support

Still happening. Since last Council I had an access reps meeting where we looked at interviews, creating an inclusive environment at them and how we could liaise to make sure they went well. I'm following this up at the moment. I've met several Common Room officers of one sort or another and attended JCR and MCR Prescom. If you have new officers coming into place or just want a meeting then e-mail me! I've mainly been dealing with academic reps, access reps and Presidents but I'm always really happy to meet with people and talk to them (either about OUSU in general or my portfolio work so do get in touch).

In terms of training myself and Dani Quinn are nearly ready for the advocacy training we're running this Saturday. I'm really excited about this as it is hugely important and we should have a turnout. Please do sign up even if you haven't already and encourage your academic rep or any other relevant position to do it to. It's going to be good.

General OUSU stuff

To be honest, this and university committees has dominated the last fortnight. I've been on Elections Committee, meaning that I patrolled colleges, helped Ollie run our cross-campus elections and provided general advice on what happened last year. This year was far calmer (probably, on balance, good thing) even if it was weird doing it from the other side. A particular highlight was a Saturday morning spent with Ollie, the Election regulations and 20,000 e-mail addresses sorting them into 4 different categories to make sure everyone could vote in the right elections. I've continued working with Madeline Stanley on working to rationalise our governance structure. Madeline's truly incredible level of commitment to OUSU is far beyond what could reasonably be asked of anyone – I hope that everything passes today as a lot of work has gone into it and having a saner set of governing documents will be incredibly valuable in the long term.

- I've attended two meetings of the Strategic Review Group. We're going to be running focus groups, surveys and one on one meetings this term and into next term. We're also going to be inviting written submissions from people on what they think OUSU should do and I would encourage everyone to respond to this. To be blunt, it's very easy to say that OUSU doesn't do things as well as it could (we all realise this). This group is a chance for you all to have input on what sort of student union you want, and I really do want people to participate. Other general stuff includes Exec, responding to media enquiries (including the OxStu asking quite why the Freemasons are in the OCCH. I'm still trying to work it out myself) and campaigning in central Oxford on Higher Education Funding.

Meetings with University officials

I had a training session at the Oxford Learning Institute on how to conduct training with the other sabbaticals. This was incredibly useful, really defined what I aim to get across in training sessions and we'll be following this up today. Me and Sarah had a meeting with the PVC (Education) and Head of Education Policy Support where we went through the Education Committee agenda, with a particular focus on outreach and graduate admissions. With Exec I had another meeting with the Proctors.

- Since it doesn't really fit in anywhere else I've also spent a lot of time writing papers – these have included some for JCC, bits of a draft response on the university consultation regarding a 'fitness to study' policy, and some scoping papers for the two reviews of complaints and appeals procedures in the university and colleges. These have been time-consuming but hugely important; the university is finally moving on areas which impact lots of students in very profound ways and it is incredibly important that we make our voice heard in this process as they are willing to listen.

Student Advice Service

I should have known better than to tempt fate by revealing that this had got quieter. I've been dealing with some complex casework including several appeals and hearings, as well as some comparatively 'minor' issues which we're making progress on. Please do publicise this service to your Common Rooms as it's one of the most important things we do – either e-mail advice@ousu.org or access@ousu.org to get me directly.

University Committees

There have been a lot of these.

- Education Committee. Is largely looking at access this week and at the time of writing I'm also writing a presentation which I am giving to the committee on student-led outreach work in Oxford. This is going to be a very valuable opportunity for me and is particularly timely as we've just had over 160 people

sign up to be shadowed for the Target Schools shadowing program in Hilary Term! With funding being squeezed everywhere it's very important that OUSU keeps up the pressure on university on outreach work and more will be happening on this next term.

- University Council. This met Monday of 5th week but I didn't really tell you what happened last time. I can't go into much more detail than to say that we talked about Higher Education Funding, but we did and this will be something we will look at repeatedly in the months ahead. We have also had confirmed that myself, Stefan and Sarah will be doing a presentation to Council in January on the work that OUSU does which will be a great chance to show a bit more about what OUSU actually does within the university.
- MPLS Undergraduate Joint Consultative Forum. This was quite fun – the Maths, Physical & Life Sciences Division has a termly meeting where student JCC reps, Divisional board reps and me get to go along and feed in our view to the Head of Teaching for the Division. We mainly looked at study skills and finals forums where we lobbied the Division on expnding the former and running the latter (rather than OUSU having to do it). More on this next term.
- Senior Tutors' Committee. Was really valuable – we looked at the NSS, academic feedback sessions, the fitness to study policy and many others. The committee only meets once per term but it's one of the most important I go to as I sense that a lot of Senior Tutors don't hear that much from their students so feeding in is vital. I could go on for hours about what happened at this meeting so please do ask me about it.
- PRAC ICT Committee – I couldn't make this which was a shame as the Senior Tutors' meeting overran by 30 minutes. Sarah went though so ask her!
- Admissions Executive – looked mainly at reallocation and other areas of admissions policy; these are going to be priority areas owing to existing procedures needing some more examining. A fairly important win is that I'm now on a group which will review what sort of information the university puts out about colleges online and in the prospectus; there's a move towards rent levels, issues around disability provision and perhaps others being included and we'll be working out how to take this forward.
- Admissions Committee – followed on neatly from the above meeting. We looked at implementation of regionalisation. This is going ahead, but the work's only beginning – for it to work we need colleges to take access more seriously than many do now. The 1st access reps meeting of next term is going to be looking at this issue precisely and it's going to be one of my main areas of focus in the months I have left in this job. It's going to be awesome.

As always please do ask me if you have any questions and I'll do my best to answer them. Either in person or via e-mail – access@ousu.org.

Eorann Lean Community)	V-P	(Charities	&
-----------------------------------	------------	-------------------	--------------

I don't know how its 7th week but its been a good term – here is a short summary of all the stuff I've done this term:

Big Brother Big Sister:

Appointed Mireille and Amanda student presidents. With Mireille and Amanda chose 5 new mentors for the scheme. We met with Debbie and have found 5 kids to take part in the scheme. We had our first committee meeting with the mentors and planned our first activity day which is going to be this Saturday – its going to be awesome with gumboot dancing, photo scavenger hunt, Green's pack lunch and G&D's ice cream all for a discount!

Environment and Ethics:

I helped organise the fundraising event – Lights Climate Action which raised: £94.84

I took a 10:10 paper to environment panel to help e&e achieve its aim to get the university to sign up to 10:10 – I will be updated on it progress by the sustainability team at Envrionmental panel – so will update you at the meeting.

I assisted Daniel with reps training, with public speaking and debating and campaigning training with “5 minute tutes” on climate science, fairtrade, and gave out resources.

I wrote a E&E handbook for reps.

350:

organised this event with great committee of students and local env groups – had both local mps at it and really great turn out of students and locals. Our photos are of the 85 used for media – as there were over 5200 events over the world (according to www.350.org) that's pretty cool!

Education against climate change:

Helping to email departmental administrators to make their lectures climate related. Also helping them find people to debate "is the university doing enough?"

Swapshop:

Organising student and community swapshop with local community action group with the help of Eiles Robinson from county council.

Oxford Inspires:

Organised database of students from student groups to be invited to next cultural platform in order to network with local groups who involved in theatre, music in the community as well as county and city councillors. Making student volunteering sheet so local groups know time commitments etc. to get more students involved with these groups. Met to discuss possibility of having a student cultural platform.

Volunteering Fair:

Town hall – 23rd February 2-6! There will be an accompanying booklet with organisations looking for volunteers and what roles they are looking for.

Beyond Profit:

Careers service – 3rd February!. There will be an accompanying booklet with Articles and details of the charities with stall and the opportunities they have.

Charities and student engagement:

I have met with Cancer research, cowley carnival ,Peace direct and macmillan to discuss student involvement. Cancer reaserch and I are going to set up a student committee and link it with the local action group. I am going to advertise Cowley carnival to students particularly graduates to get performers involved, volunteers and students down to enjoy the day. I am setting up link with Oxhub for Peace direct so they can do a series event and organising a rag raid for them. With Macmillan I had several meeting with Julian explained the college system, talked through the best way to reach out to students – ending with him getting a freshers table and holding a cocktail night, and advertised his charity to rag reps as a possible college charity.

RAG:

Took in nominations and helped with vote on RAG charities, helped with Oxford's got talent and Rag at Ecletric and with Rag ball promotion. I've met with Rag reps individually and hope to repeat this at the end of term and beginning of next. Updated Charity rep handbook. Applied and got sponsorship from accenture, working with accenture to arrange an evening for rag reps with their social responsible department.

Meetings:

I've attended Environmental panel, Socially responsible invest,mnet committee, JCCSM, the central Neighbourhood Action group, the OCVA volunteering and community forum, Proctors, the community safety partnership, the Police etc.

PART TIME OFFICERS

Jack Matthews

Common Room Support Officer

Firstly I must apologise to council for not organising the venues for this term's councils sooner. I will be working over the holidays to organise venues for next term's Council. If you would like to hold a Council next term, please do let me know.

Sky TV - I have been working with Cambridge SU on this matter. We are working together to send a joint letter to Sky expressing our concerns over the high subscription rates for Common Rooms. I have also contacted Durham SU, who are onboard with what we are doing. I hope to get more Student Unions involved over the coming weeks.

CRiS - The first part of the Common Room Information Service is up and running. More databases will be coming on line throughout the Christmas holidays. I hope to expand the service to graduate common rooms in the future, but in the mean time I will work to maintain and improve the Comparative Database. If you are having any problems with CRiS, or have any suggestions, please do let me know.

Societies - I have continued to support the setting up of new student societies in Oxford. Yesterday I ran a workshop for new societies. As a member of the University Clubs committee I will also be working to better publicise the grants available. I am also working with the Proctors Office to produce a guide on how to best apply for these grants.

OUSU Reps Meetings - We have had many OUSU Reps meetings throughout the term. I have been really happy with the increase in the number of MCR representatives, however I hope to increase attendance in the future. These meetings are not just to run through the agenda, but are a great chance to raise issues that are affecting your Common Room, and to discuss how best to tackle these issues. Meetings are not just for OUSU Reps, so if you would like to attend, please do let me know.

Common Room Visits - Myself and other members of the Executive have visited many Common Rooms this term, both in Freshers week and throughout term itself. If you want anyone to visit your Common Room at any time, drop me an email and I will sort it out.

Other things - I have also been working on many other issues including; OUCS Spotify Policy, Cheaper bus tickets for Oxford University students, Setting up OUSU stall at Freshers Fair, Promoting NUS Extra Cards, Teaching Common Room Representatives to use the OUSU online elections system.

Over the past term I have also attended the following committees; OUSU Exec, OUSU Council, OUSU Publications Committee, OUSU Reps Committee, MPLS Divisional Board, MPLS UJCF, MPLS Academic Committee, University Club Committee, Prescom (JCR+MCR).

Jasper Minton-Taylor

LGBTQ Officer

The first thing I did since my election half way through trinity term of last year was to conduct a survey of college LGBTQ reps addressing such things as constitutional position, budget, number of events organised by the rep and number of attendees at those events. The results, which were wide-ranging, were used to generate discussion for the first meeting of reps this term. It was useful for all the reps to meet together as it helps all of us to see issues at hand. I have met some reps individually and this similarly is very helpful in enabling me to support reps when they need it in the best way possible.

We recently had a training session for reps held by Oxford Friend, a local listening and information phone line for LGBTQ people. I spoke to a rep recently who said he found it very useful and I will be getting in contact with more societies to come in and give training on other things such as sexual health. In OUSU we now have a host of publicity material for reps of different LGBTQ societies in the UK so that they can put such leaflets on

posters on their notice boards to give information to those 'invisible' LGBTQ students who may not come to LGBTQ events or disclose their sexuality in colleges.

I also attended the JCR meetings of Worcester, where the LGBTQ rep was putting through a motion for a specific budget and Wadham, where the welfare reps were putting through a motion for the creation of an LGBTQ rep. Both these motions were successful, and I felt that at least in Wadham JCR my presence helped, even if those at the JCR meeting were in favour of the motion anyway.

I have also created crib sheets to help reps at JCR meetings, containing specific statistics from the survey last year and from other origins. One addresses the question of why a common room needs an LGBTQ rep, one is to help motions for the creation of a specific budget for an LGBTQ rep and one is a crib sheet to help reps when putting through a financial motion for the printing of the new LGBTQ handbook which we hope will be finalised and printed next term.

On that note, I have found a deputy editor to help make the handbook a reality and am waiting to get in contact with the editor who is unfortunately on his year abroad in France. We are also promoting elections for LGBTQ council, which are happening on Wednesday of 8th week. All committee positions are up; email me at jasper.minton-taylor@sjc.ox.ac.uk to find out more.

I have also created a facebook group and am again updating a database of LGBTQ reps across the colleges. This will be useful to LGBTQsoc and to all reps, who will much more easily be able to contact each other to arrange inter-collegiate events which we have found a very successful way of getting college members to come to events that a rep holds. I am also looking into the creation of an LGBTQ rep position in MCRs (GCRs) and have talked to some graduates at LGBTQsoc drinks (which I found to be a very good way of interacting with reps on a more personal level and will go more often) and have been in email correspondence with others. I think it will be good to put a point of discussion in at MCR meetings on this subject to gauge responses of MCR members and to allow people to ask questions.

As term is coming to a close it may be good to resurrect this next term. For the present my current focus is on promoting LGBTQ council elections and in attending a NUS LGBT activist training day on Tuesday 24 November.

Jasper Minton-Taylor
OUSU LGBTQ Officer

Daniel Lowe

E & E Officer

Hi Council. Take a breath, this is going to be a long one.

First, the update on E&E

I'll have just left environment panel with Eorann before council so a verbal update will come.

The E&E social will be on thursday of 8th week at Que Pasa, perfect for old hats, returning members and anyone who has yet to surface! Please tell your newly elected E&E reps to come along as we always work better if we know each other well.

The Wave, the world's largest climate protest(?) is happening on saturday of 8th week. Coaches are being organised to take people to London, if you want to get a seat email me eande@ousu.org for more info.

There's also a talk happening on Thursday on how student activism is really effective, talking about the People & Planet campaign against Fruit of the Loom's human rights violations in Honduras. 7.30pm, Catholic Chaplaincy, St Aldate's.

Finally, I have, at last, typed up the Green Survey. Its coming out to your E&E reps and bursars so PLEASE make them fill it in so I can have lots of data entry over the summer holidays.

Secondly, nostalgia: it is my last council as a member of the part-time exec after all.

Firstly I'd like to thank, once again, my first sab-team. Martin, Ingrid, Claire, James, Rich, Louise and Hannah. They were all awesome, and it was the non-stop fun attitude and general thrill for the job they had which got me hooked on OUSU. Also, my first incarnation of the exec. Becci, Hanna, Dom and Adam in particular for being such great exec members, and Kat and Sarah for making it to sab-dom.

From last year's sab team, a special call has got to go out to Rachel Cummings. The continued affiliation of so many common rooms is pretty much down to her. OUSU wouldn't have survived without her.

The current sab team: you guys are fantastic. More bonded than any that have come before you, you take dedication to the job above and beyond the ordinary meaning.

The permanent staff: Karen, we have no idea how we managed without you. You are the clockwork of Thomas Hull House, and you make sure we never get too stressy. Imo and Stuart you have provided us with countless anecdotes and a set of publications and services that have never before been so professional. Lisa, you keep us all sane, and we love you for it. And I cannot forget Sue and Barbara, especially Sue. Most visitors never know you're there, but don't forget that you keep our accounts ticking over, and we'd be lost without you.

Lastly I turn to the current exec. Thank you all for being wonderful. A few to pick out in particular though are Sinni, I will never forget your artful espionage. Tom H and Anastasya, thanks so much for your help with the campaign. Sally, it was so nice to have another voice of ethics on the exec, every time you spoke out I was pleasantly surprised, and more than appreciative. Tom P, Matt and Jasper, its great that although you were late to the fold, you were no less dedicated and really earned your stripes. Its awesome you'll all still be around. Portia, I've never been more impressed with such razor sharp wit and cutting comments, always used just when needed most.

Finally the exec members who really deserve special mention, Jack, Ian, Elena and Madeline (yes I know you were never on exec Maddy). You're tireless work in making sure we still had an OUSU and our several curry sessions in Chutney's will be long treasured memories. May our legacy live on in an students-unlimited OUSU, and never again an OUSU rep running on a disaffiliation platform. I think we all kept eachother sane under the lwu years and are firmer friends for it.

And to all of you, members of council, for coming along and making sure that no one can ever claim students don't care about democracy.

See you next year,

Daniel x