

# Reports to Council

7<sup>th</sup> Week Council Michaelmas 2014

## **Sabbatical Officers**

### Louis Trup – President

Governance - been working on firming up OUSU's positions on changes to the governing documents. Most of the focus on this has been with regards to the Quinquennial Review, where we are making some significant changes to OUSU's articles of association. We have had one of the key negotiating meetings with the university and have also met with people from Kings College London SU to try and get some advice. A key area I am now working on with Margery (one of the student trustees) is making our trustee board work better. We are looking at increasing the number of student trustees from 3 to 5 and would like to hear your views in AOB.

IT things - been working with the university IT services to look at ways to improve the Nexus system. I have been feeding in to a working group looking at potentially moving to the 'cloud'. If you have any views on this, please do get in touch. I have also been relaying concerns that many colleges have with the current state of Eduroam provision within colleges. It is clear that there is a need for better provision of wireless internet access across the university, and whilst I have been pushing for improvements, the more views from students I can get, the more persuasive I can be so once again, do get in touch.

Clubs and Societies - finalised the categories for the OUSU student awards which with nominations opening in the coming week. I have also been liaising with various training providers who will be providing training in sponsorship and finances which will be open to all clubs and socs in Hilary.

Free Education - following OUSU's decision to back the Free Education demo, I coordinated an Oxford group going to the demo. It was a good day out, but I think it also got coverage which may encourage the political parties to think carefully about their stances on education funding in the run up to the general election.

New Vice-Chancellor - Compiled the views that students submitted in our online consultation regarding what we want in a new Vice-Chancellor which I will present to the nominating committee for the Vice-Chancellor on Friday. **(See Appendix 1)**

Engaging more graduate students - met the incoming president of the Clarendon Scholars Council and will be working to support students in the Clarendon Community.

Large transport infrastructure projects - Having been communicating with his office for the past few months, I met with Councillor Ian Hudspeth, the Leader of the Oxfordshire County Council. We talked through the various proposals set out in the Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4 - the transport plan for Oxfordshire up to 2031) and I fed in student concerns and ideas, especially regarding single rail elevated mass transit systems. I have invited Cllr Hudspeth to present to OUSU Council in Hilary term on how the LTP4 is developing. We also spoke about student concerns with housing and rent in Oxford.

Innovation - Finalised the focus areas for the soon to be launched student innovation fund. Improving access and improving the student experience are two of the key challenges submissions will be asked to find innovative solutions to.

Internal OUSU stuff - been working on finding a new Operations and Events Manager and preparing for the upcoming finance committee and Trustee Board meetings.

This is what I have been doing.

Louis

### Yasser Bhatti – VP Graduates

Many thanks to the outgoing PT executive, warm welcome to the new full committee PT exec and the sabb elects, particularly Nick Cooper who I know will be an amazing VP Grads! I look forward to working with Marina Lambrakis our new Graduate Academic Affairs Officer.

The last two weeks have been very busy, and when it is that busy you'd expect time to go by quickly which strangely wasn't the case. A lot has happened and I will try and capture most below:

#### WINS:

Major manifesto win: Paper on "Managing Supervision Expectations" ACCEPTED by all divisions at the Graduate Studies Administration and Procedures Group (GSAPG); Also the Graduate Academic Affairs Officer will be invited to this meeting onwards.  
Draft response to PT consultation submitted to council for approval.  
Completed accessibility report and governance update report.  
Negotiated lower rate on cleaning charge for Grad accommodation.

#### REPRESENTATION:

Attended JCR and Grad Prescom  
Collected case studies for OIWG on intellectual property  
Useful first meeting of childcare steering group with VP women and colleagues

#### IN PROGRESS:

Bus card discount: Having key meetings morning of Wed of council meeting. I hope to have good news soon!  
Quality Assurance meetings in response to PGT Masters survey.  
ISC cooptation underway.  
Graduate Admissions meetings on college information and alternative PG prospectus  
Statute 12 attendance

In the last two weeks of the term, I have University Council, QAA, Research committee, Education committee, Innovation Leadership group, Property Mgt SC and look forward to a period of reflection after term time on the past year and the next year. Take care all and see most of you in the new year!

### James Blythe – VP Access and Academic Affairs

Hi Council,

Things have been super busy since we last saw each other, what with elections, committees, my birthday (!) and lots of governance stuff. There's lots from me elsewhere on the agenda, but here is what I've been doing.

### Academic Affairs

- I've been working quite a lot on the preparation for the visit of the QAA, Oxford's external regulator (resulting in 2 motions on the agenda tonight). The visit will be in my successor's term, but a lot of the prep will be this year.
- Feedback on exams – it's clear that lots of students are very unhappy with the *status quo* and it seems there may be an opportunity to do something about it this year as it is on the agenda for a few committees. I met with Jack Hampton, Catz JCR President, and some people from his JCR about scoping out some direct action we might take if the University doesn't play ball. Exciting times!
- I've also been meeting with and supporting OUSU undergraduate divisional reps on their current projects, which look at key issues like workload and the gender gap.
- The plans for the OUSU Teaching Awards continue apace – they'll be in the new Weston Library in Trinity term. I've also attended, on Monday, the University's own Teaching Awards at Rhodes House.
- Committees: Congregation (!); Education Committee; Senior Tutors' Committee; Quality Assurance Sub-Committee; PPH Supervisory Committee; Mathematical, Physical & Life Sciences Division Undergraduate Joint Consultative Forum (MPLSUJCF).

### Access

- The bursaries consultation that I brought to 3<sup>rd</sup> week Council has ended, it's clear that students are the only group that wanted internships included this year but that there might be support for it if we do some more work in time for the next round of negotiations. I'll verbally update Council on the most recent meeting of the relevant committee (JFSSAG).
- We've set up a small review of the Reach Oxford scholarship, which will be meeting in 9<sup>th</sup> week and examining ways to make the process simpler and easier for all parties. This has taken up a fair bit of time, but I was also delighted to go to Worcester JCR and support Alex, their JCR President, in getting the JCR to support joining Reach, which is fantastic.
- I've set up the first meeting of not one but two little project groups: one, to co-ordinate a targeted BME shadowing day with Target Schools; two, to prepare for the access summit/showcase in Hilary.
- I spoke to new Moritz-Heyman scholars about ways to get involved in access and outreach; and went to a party to welcome them at Rhodes House (it's a hard life...)
- Committees: Admissions Executive; Joint Fees & Student Support Advisory Group.

Find out more through my incessant tweeting @ousu\_acaff.

### Anna Bradshaw – VP Women

*Hi Council – I want to start my report today by saying congratulations to everyone who ran in the 6<sup>th</sup> Week elections. Whether you won or not, running itself is hard and something to be proud of. I also want to congratulate Martine, the RO, on running an amazingly friendly*

*election, and to give a particular shout-out to the first majority-women sab team in eight years.*



*As always, if you have any questions about anything below, get in touch with me at women@ousu.ox.ac.uk,*

*xAnna*

## **Sexual Health & Sexual Violence**

### Consent Workshops

Work continues to review the Queering Consent Workshops, but has been slowed a little due to lots of the people I'm consulting on this being understandably busy (esp. due to QueerWeek). I hope to have the reviewed workshops finished by the end of term. This will mean that I have plenty of time to pilot and refine them ahead of February – LGBTQ History Month.

I have also made some steps forward with the evaluation of the Freshers' Workshops, and have submitted preliminary reports to relevant University committees.

*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 have begun offering the new First Respondent Training, and interest has been really positive. On Monday of 7<sup>th</sup> I will be running an open session hosted by WomCam, and then will be starting to go into colleges to deliver the training to Common Room committees and other interested students.

I also met with Alice Irving, who has been involved with It Happens Here, and two students at Cherwell School. They are beginning a project called 'Hands Off!' combatting unwanted sexual touching in their school, and Alice and I are going to be helping them to run some workshops in PSHE classes.

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

### Harassment Policies

The meeting that the inter-campaign Harassment Policy Working Group had with the Equality and Diversity Unit went well, and we have begun to plan how this group will be active over the next few months. This will include resources provided for 8<sup>th</sup> week of this term, and an equipping session for colleges in Hilary.

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

## **Academic Attrition**

Eden ran our three Ask-a-Grad panels in Life Sciences, Medical Sciences and Physical Sciences on Monday and Tuesday of 6<sup>th</sup> week. Though attendance was not what we'd hoped for, the discussions were great and we've had really positive feedback from people who did attend. We filmed them all, and will be making the videos available online. At the time of writing, I have finished editing the Life Sciences panel video, and hopefully they will all be online by Council.

Eden and I also met with a group at Balliol MCR to discuss academic attrition and put together a plan for altering the gender imbalance.

*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.'*

## **Student Parents**

This Sunday is the second Tea & Toys social, at The Story Museum. Response has been positive, and I'm hopeful that attendance will be higher than at the last one.

I have drafted a template motion for common rooms demanding the provision of baby-changing facilities, working from a motion that Eden drafted looking at general family-friendliness. I will be sending both motions out to common rooms, along with the Family Friendly Event Checklist from the OUSU Common Room Superhero Handbook.

*Manifesto pledge: 'I will work with the Graduate Women's Officer to lobby all colleges to provide baby changing facilities by the end of next year, and provide a well-publicized database for coupled students and student parents.'*

## **Women in Leadership**

Applications are now open for the OUSU Women's Leadership Development Programme! Adverts have gone out in the OxStu, targeted flyering is happening, and I've publicized the applications window through the all-student email and lots of social media channels. All very exciting 😊

*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...'*

## **Linking Women**

I am confirming the venue for the Women's Termly Conference, which will be on Wednesday of 8<sup>th</sup> week, and have planned out the event, including the general PresCom-style meeting, break-out working groups, and hopefully a short speaker before dinner.

Hopefully next term this will link with celebrations for International Women's Day.

*Manifesto pledge: 'I will work with the Women's Campaign Officer to formalize a termly conference for college women's officers and campaign reps...'*

### **Accessibility Motion**

With Eden and Lucy, I wrote a submission to the Accessibility Summit hosted by Chris on Monday of 6<sup>th</sup>. I attended the summit, and contributed to the discussion and set of recommendations that will be in the report coming to this Council.

*Council mandate: 'OUSU and Accessibility' Resolves 1.*

### **Campaigns**

(Also see separate report on the campaigns review process.)

#### WomCam

Most of this is covered elsewhere - I will be running an open First Respondent Training session as the WomCam Monday meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> week, and supported Eden with the Ask-a-Grad panels, co-hosted by WomCam in 6<sup>th</sup> week. I have volunteered for the extremely important job of Face Painter for the WomCam Social in 8<sup>th</sup> week, and am starting to get exciting about Feminist Cocktails already.

#### It Happens Here

I have organized It Happens Here's event for the International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25<sup>th</sup>) – It Happens Here: White Ribbon Workshop. At the workshop, people will be invited to personalize a paper white ribbon (e.g. with a pledge to stand up to violence against women, or with a personal story of strength or compassion), which will then be photographed and made available online. At the workshop there will also be the opportunity to sign-up to be involved with It Happens Here at a committee level, and I am optimistic that this will re-invigorate the campaign's committee.

### **Events and Committees**

- WomCam, Corpus, St John's, and St Hilda's hustings
- *Ask-a-Grad Panels: Life Sciences; Medical Sciences; Physical Sciences.* (17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November)
- *Childcare Steering Group* (19<sup>th</sup> November)
- *Equality and Diversity Panel* (21<sup>st</sup> November)
- *Abortion Rights Student Conference* (22<sup>nd</sup> November)
- *Reclaim the Night London* (22<sup>nd</sup> November)
- *Tea & Toys* student parents' social (23<sup>rd</sup> November)
- *First Respondent Training* at WomCam (24<sup>th</sup> November)
- *It Happens Here: White Ribbon Workshop* (25<sup>th</sup> November)

## Ruth Meredith – VP Charities and Community

**RAG: - Improving Sponsorship:** This term, we have recruited extra sponsorship officers, and I've worked with the RAG Treasurer to improve and target the RAG sponsorship proposal, and change our model in line with best practice. I've also introduced an emphasis on in-kind sponsorship, recognizing the value of local businesses to RAG's success. - **City-wide events:** This term I've worked on building links with the Council in order to be able to secure venues which will allow us to run events open to community groups, and residents. I've also helped develop next term's proposal for RAG Run – an event which will realize the potential RAG has to enable fundraising for local charities.

- **Extra manifesto progress:** I've worked with RAG to professionalize our planning processes, and to change RAG's governance to enable us to support lots of different kinds of student fundraising. I'm confident that the importance of these changes will become clear next term! I've also overseen a lot of events – RAG Ball, RAG's Firewalk, the launch of Jailbreak, Kili and Morocco treks, Movember events, Undie Run, casino evenings, three raids and many many committee meetings. The RAG team is amazing, and their hard work and commitment are a great reminder of why working at OUSU is great.

**Living Wage:** The Living Wage team this term have been great. With their work, I've been able to meet with the University several times, and 8 Common Room presidents about getting their colleges to accredit. I've also put on training sessions to support students who want to use community organising tools, and the campaign has run five in-college film screenings, and a uni-wide speaker event.

I've updated the college campaign handbook too!

**E&E:** E&E's divestment work this term has been building up to a meeting with the Socially Responsible Investment Review Committee, which is on Thursday of 7<sup>th</sup> week. I'll let you know how it goes!

**Homelessness:** In previous reports, I've mentioned the success of OYD's awareness week - a huge diversity of events were attended by approximately 650 students in 3<sup>rd</sup> week. I've been working with the new chair, Freya Turner, to set specific goals for the campaign, and work out how to build on the success of the awareness week.

**Voter Registration:** Voter registration has been a theme of this term for Louis and I – we've been working hard on plans for a 2<sup>nd</sup> week HT registration drive, and to make clear to local authorities how serious a challenge to student enfranchisement the changes are.

**Other sustainability work:** I've signed up to do Green Impact SU again, and so far our progress has been good – we're taking steps to make sure OUSU's practices are as sustainable as possible, and that we're practicing what we preach. Xav and I also worked on #VeggiePledge, which has over 500 participants on Facebook, and has started an interesting debate about how we can take easy steps to reduce our environmental impact. In 8<sup>th</sup> week, I'll be running foodbank collections from annexes and colleges with the Islamic Society, Just Love and Food Justice. The plans are looking really promising!

**Community work:** I've been to lots and lots of community meetings of different kinds, including

chairing a Neighbourhood Action Group, and the Oxford Safer Community Partnership Group. I tried to put on an event with Thames Valley Police to give students the opportunity to ask questions about their practices, but unfortunately turnout was low. I will work to see whether this kind of event is viable or of interest to students for next term. I've worked with TVP to produce a guide to student's rights when protesting, and have flagged to them the need to make tackling sexual assault and harassment a much more visible and effective part of their work.

**Community Wardens:** This term I've recruited and trained our community warden teams, and helped them develop two exciting community initiatives. In East Oxford, the wardens will be producing and distributing a newsletter highlighting events, and safety tips for leaving homes over Christmas. In Jericho, the first of the warden's Celebrate Jericho events is happening today! Daisies are running an advent wreath-making workshop, with reserved places for members of the Alive and Kicking elderly support group, and lots of lovely residents and students taking part.

### Chris Pike – VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities

Hey comrades,

"We're here! We're queer! We can't afford nine grand a year!" I had a fab time at the free education demonstration alongside dozens of Oxford students. Even if you weren't there, I hope we can continue to fight the good fight here in Oxford.

In the meantime I'll update you on some of the things I've been up to over the past two weeks, apart from generally catching up on all the things left over from my weeks off. Unfortunately my work has been slow and steady, to stay the least, for various personal reasons. But I hope to be able to demonstrate a lot more to you when I return for Hilary, including progress on work started at the start of this term.

### **Accessibility**

The Accessibility Summit went ahead and all officers have submitted their reports. Unfortunately I have been unable to bring a report to this Council. I will be bringing a full report as a motion, with lots of concerns and recommendations (both short-term and long-term, and both informal and formal). The report will be used to bring further motions and make further change into the future.

### **Meetings and Reports**

I have submitted a report to the university detailing what has been going on in welfare from the OUSU side during Michaelmas Term. The key argument I've made is the urgency with which we must review and act on college actions regarding suspension. It has been demonstrated that many colleges act in an unacceptable way towards students who are or are considering suspending.

### **Supporting Other Work**

I met with Adam Ward on Friday to go through the submissions for the Bye Bi Phobia

campaign, which were fantastic. Check it out on Facebook if you haven't seen any yet!!

I also met with some Student Minds campaigners to discuss what more can be done to support students going on their year abroad with welfare needs, as they are often made to feel like they have been 'cut off' from Oxford's support systems for the year they are away.

### **Part-Time Executive Officers**

#### **Eden Tanner – Graduate Womens Officer**

Hi Council!

Sadly, this will be my last report as Graduate Women's Officer. I've had such a great time working with an extraordinary group of people. I would especially like to thank Anna Bradshaw, whose support has been critical over the summer and Michaelmas to achieving my pledges.

To update you, the **Ask A Grad panels** went really well. The discussion was frank and revealing, and the students in attendance were able to make connections with the panellists and I received lots of positive feedback. Anna is working on making videos of the events to share online, so more people are able to access these discussions.

Once again, I am incredibly indebted to the rest of the Executive team who have made this year into something really productive and worthwhile.

Over and out,

Eden.

#### **Emily Silcock – Community Outreach and Charities Officer**

Hi Council,

Last report for a while ... It's mostly just been handover stuff over the last couple of weeks. On Your Doorstep now has a chair and committee - and I have more free time than I've had in ages.

One more time for good luck: if you know anyone who might be interested in running for my role (because it's fab) please get them to email me.

Emily

#### **Jamie Wells – Health and Welfare Officer**

The remaining loose ends to tie up mainly involve handing over properly to my successor and making sure he is in a good position to take up the role and hit the ground running. This is my final report to council, and I have had a great time working as part of the exec. Thanks for having me and I hope I helped with Health and Welfare at Oxford in some way!

Adam Ward – LGBTQ Officer

I am really pleased with the progress Bye Bi Prejudice has been making over the last week and I encourage everyone to think about the inaccuracy of stereotypes which non-monosexual people face.

I have also been working on finishing the LGBTQ Rep handbook which will help provide information for College LGBTQ Reps.

Adam

Will Neaverson – Common Room Support Officer

This week I've been working on the Common Room Information Survey, which I am analysing as the results come in. If there are any undergraduate presidents who still haven't filled it out, please do – it's useful to all of us who work here at OUSU.

I've also attended Graduate PresCom with Yasser on Thursday, and will be incorporating their recommendations into what I bring to 8<sup>th</sup> Week JCR PresCom.

Excitingly, I've been working on setting up an *All Souls Common Room*, to get the elusive All Souls fellows into Council and the OUSU fold. Anyone who wants to help out with this, do get in touch!

Finally, I've been preparing my handover, which I'm incredibly excited to begin. Congrats both Joe and Omar for running a good race. I'm sure Joe will do an excellent job.

This is sadly my last Council report after 6 terms serving in the Student Union. I can't wait to spend my final two terms at Oxford still engaged with OUSU as your trustee.

As ever, any questions/comments to [commonrooms@ousu.org](mailto:commonrooms@ousu.org)

Leonie Smith – Mature Students' Officer

More socials held by the campaign this period, and the campaign chair and I met with this university to agree provisional date and logistics for next year's orientation event, to ensure continuity after our terms of office and end.

Alice Wang – Graduate International Students' Officer

Hey Council

I'm still in the stage of figuring out how things work around here, so there's not too much to report on at the moment. I met with Yasser last week to talk about how to improve engagement of graduate students (let me know if you have any ideas!), the International Students' Campaign and next year's upcoming International Festival.

## **Divisional Board Representatives**

### **Emma Alexander – Social Sciences – Undergraduate**

Hi Council! Term has definitely flown by, so I'm going to update you on all the things I've been getting up to. I've attended all committees as required by my role and both Academic Rep forums of term, along with the Politics UJCC. Along with this I've been in contact with the reps within my division to talk about the problems they're facing and I will be acting on some of the issues that have arisen from there. I presented a paper at Undergraduate Studies Committee on disappointing NSS feedback relating to assessment and feedback. This led me to make some plans this week with James Blythe (VP AccAff) and Matt Tennant about how we can properly try to push forward productively with the eternal issues of mark schemes, and hopefully we might get some agreement on more detailed marking criteria from departments next term. In the interests of scrutiny I also put forward an amendment to include Div Reps in the motion passed two councils ago about holding OUSU representatives to account! I am looking forward to next term and as ever if you have a concern I might be able to help with, please get in touch.

### **Raj Dattani – Medical Sciences – Undergraduate**

#### 7th Week Council Report - RS Dattani

1. This written report constitutes my third accountable interaction with Council. I attended 1st and 5th Week Council, making oral reports at both as well as a written report at the former.
2. I apologise for my absence at 5th Week Council which was due to a family bereavement. This occurred at sudden notice and I was unable to file a written report in place. I am unable to attend today's meeting due to my participation in the Medical School Revue "Tingewick" which opens tonight.
3. Since my last oral report at 3rd Week Council I have:
  - Attended a meeting with the GMC as part of their review of Oxford Medical School
  - Attended a meeting of the Divisional Library Committee where I successfully proposed a trial of a new learning resource "BMJ Best Practice" be funded. I also lobbied for an increase in the materials budget of the RSL and BHCL above that determined by PRAC. This is going to the Divisional Board in Week 9.
  - Corresponded with the Bodleian on the logistics of said trial.
  - Received the papers for the meeting of Undergraduate Studies Committee
  - Corresponded with the VP Graduates on gaining Divisional backing at Board level for the discounted bus pass scheme. This particularly affects students up the hill.
4. Between this, the final Council of term, and the first meeting of HT, I will:

- Attend the meeting of Education Policy and Standards Committee on 2/12
- Attend the Board meeting in Week 9 and lobby for the aforementioned budgetary uplift which would enable more learning resources for students.
- Continue work on the trial of BMJ Best Practice
- Continue working with the VP Graduates on the bus pass scheme.

RS Dattani  
20/11/14

Hilary Chow – Social Science - Postgraduate

Notice:

\*If you are a graduate under the Social Sciences Division and are looking for research participants for your project, you're very welcome to write to me to advertise for you here.

\*If you'd like to talk to me about the Graduate Studies Committee meeting (details below), please contact me.

\*If you'd like to talk to me about the divisional board meeting (details below), please contact me.

Achievements:

1.

I have responded to my first scrutiny committee request.

2.

I have responded to the request for me to comment on a policy framework for part-time postgraduate programmes in the future.

3.

I have further collected information on departmental representatives, and have now accumulated a list of 157 representatives.

4.

I have advised on a student campaign on their approach to the divisional board.

5.

I have responded to an enquiry about compensation for student helpers during the interview period.

6.

I have responded to requests for comments on two forthcoming motions.

7.

I have attended my first Graduate Studies Committee meeting.

8.

I have requested and collected many feedback from academic representatives on several issues discussed in the GCS meeting.

Reports:

1.

If you are a departmental or academic representative of a postgraduate course under the Social Sciences Division and you have yet to receive an email from me, please drop me an email as soon as possible at [pg-socsci@ousu.org](mailto:pg-socsci@ousu.org). These are the schools, departments, and faculties under the division:

School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography

School of Archaeology

School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies  
Saïd Business School  
Department of Economics  
Department of Education  
School of Geography and the Environment  
Blavatnik School of Government  
Department of International Development (Queen Elizabeth House)  
Oxford Internet Institute  
Faculty of Law  
Department of Politics and International Relations  
Department of Social Policy and Intervention  
Department of Sociology  
Plus three cross-divisional units:  
Oxford Martin School  
Oxford-Man Institute of Quantitative Finance  
Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment  
List retrieved 5 November 2014 from <http://www.socsci.ox.ac.uk/departments3>.

2.

In the Graduate Studies Committee meeting on 21 November (Friday), the items discussed are:

Clarendon fund allocation  
Application numbers  
Application fee  
Policy on part-time courses  
Statistics in relation to gender, ethnicity, and disability  
Supervision reporting rates  
Divisional quality assurance  
Introduction of the merit classification into taught master's courses

3.

In the divisional board meeting on 28 November (Friday), the items to be discussed are:

Graduate employment outcomes  
Divisional Research Strategy  
Annual Health and Safety report and priorities for 2014/15  
Collections Budget for the Bodleian Social Sciences Libraries for 2015/16  
Timing of the Associate Professor title exercise for 2014/15  
Update on Professors of Practice  
Meeting of the Undergraduate Studies Committee held on 11 November  
Meeting of Teaching Audit Committee  
Appointment of the Gladstone Chair in Government in the Department for Politics and International Relations  
Proposal to change the name of the Blavatnik Professorship of Global Health and Public Policy  
Guidance in advance of the launch of the Gender Equality Charter Mark

Report from the Libraries

Plans:

1.

A student experience survey is to be carried out at the end of Michaelmas. Stay tuned!

## **Paper for the Nominating Committee for the Vice-Chancellorship**

### **What students want from the new Vice-Chancellor - findings from OUSU's consultation.**

#### **Summary**

This paper is a summary of the findings from the student consultation that OUSU has undertaken following an initial presentation to the NCVC on Thursday 9th October 2014.

The most significant viewpoints that have come from the consultation are:

- The new Vice-Chancellor should be **progressively minded**.
- The new Vice-Chancellor should have a **commitment to diversity**.
- The new Vice-Chancellor should be **committed to making Oxford as open and accessible as possible**.
- The new Vice-Chancellor should be a **strong leader**.
- The new Vice-Chancellor should have an **academic background**.
- The new Vice-Chancellor should have a **commitment to listen to and prioritise the student view**.

Following a quick note on the consultation process, these six broad characteristics constitute the structure of this paper.

For more information, please contact Louis Trup, OUSU President, at [president@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:president@ousu.ox.ac.uk)

#### **Consultation process**

Following OUSU's initial presentation to the NCVC, OUSU sabbatical officers have spoken to various students in the university and have conducted an online consultation that was advertised to all students. We received 36 detailed submissions online, of which 24 were from undergraduates and 12 from postgraduates.

This paper combines findings from informal discussions and the online submissions. Where useful, quotations from respondents have been included alongside their student status.

#### **Main characteristics students would like in the next Vice-Chancellor**

##### **Progressively minded**

The broad view is that the new Vice-Chancellor should be willing to lead Oxford University with a "mentality of change" (Postgraduate student). Whilst for some, this change constitutes "carefully moving Oxford forwards in terms of teaching topics/methods" (Undergraduate student), for others, this progressive mindset is situated within broader societal change, such as having "a commitment to pursuit of free education" (Postgraduate student), "support of a University wide Living Wage" (Undergraduate student) and "somebody who supports divestment from fossil fuels" (Postgraduate student).

Many called for progressive thinking with regards to University bureaucracy asking for the new Vice-Chancellor to have a “willingness to tackle the tangled bureaucracy that hampers many aspects of university and college life” (Undergraduate student).

This progressive mindset should be situated within a desire for the University to remain competitive, with respondents calling for the new Vice Chancellor to be someone who is “forward thinking and able to see the big picture [in order] to keep Oxford as one of the best universities for research and teaching” (Postgraduate student).

### **Committed to Diversity**

The most common finding from our discussions with students and something which a majority of respondents online commented on, was the need for the new Vice-Chancellor to be committed to improving the diversity of students and staff within Oxford University. Many students are of the opinion that it would be preferable for the new Vice-Chancellor to be a woman as this would demonstrate the University’s commitment to women in leadership. Others were additionally specific, adding that a “non-white, not-straight woman” would be of preference (Undergraduate student).

Regardless of the new Vice-Chancellor’s gender, sexuality or ethnic background they should have experience of working in institutions to improve diversity for women, LGBTQ, Black and Minority Ethnic and disabled people.

### **Committed to an open and accessible Oxford**

There is a strong view within the student body that the new Vice-Chancellor should have an “emphasis on improving Oxford’s access work and image so that no capable students are put off from applying” (Undergraduate student). Many feel that the Vice-Chancellor should take a lead role in “improving access to Oxford for students from disadvantaged backgrounds” (Postgraduate student), with a particular focus on “those who are women/ people of colour” (Undergraduate student) and international students.

There is also a desire for the new Vice-Chancellor to lead on “building links with the local community” (Undergraduate student) through countering a perception of the institution being “posh and elite” (Postgraduate student).

### **A strong leader**

Students are keen for the new Vice-Chancellor to be a strong and vocal leader. They should be “open, listening, acting on the majority, concerned, fair, visionary and sensitive” (Undergraduate student). This leadership should be both internal, with an “ability to connect with people in all places of the University structure” (Postgraduate student) but also external, with leadership which “establishes and enhances global connections” (Undergraduate student) and “negotiates with policy makers on education and research issues and reflect views of students and academics” (Postgraduate student). They should have “an ability to represent Oxford students, and UK university students as a whole on a public and political level” (Undergraduate student). Students would like a Vice-Chancellor with a “sense of humour, yet still being respected” (Postgraduate student). Ideally, NCVC will select “a good public speaker with an aptitude for communicating the spirit and intricacies of modern academic life” (Postgraduate student).

## **An academic background and experience of working with students**

Respondents were very keen for the new Vice-Chancellor to come from an academic background with “a career-long experience in universities” (Postgraduate student). Students would prefer someone with “Academic qualifications, research output, awards [and] administrative experience” (Postgraduate Student). This academic experience should lead the new Vice-Chancellor to be “focused on evidence based teaching. Evaluating critically what Oxford does do and what it could do better and assessing this with either evidence or a willingness to implement trials of different teaching schemes where possible” (Postgraduate student).

The academic background of the new Vice-Chancellor should mean they have “a belief in education as a social good in and of itself - education as a vehicle for positive action on the problems which face the country/wider world” (Undergraduate student).

An academic background should also mean they have “Experience working in direct contact with students. Administrative experience is important but practical understanding of students is equally important. This should mean they have at least some tutorials with postgraduate and undergraduate in very recent years even if not at the same time” (Undergraduate student).

Some students were keen for the next Vice-Chancellor to have experience in Oxford, thus understanding Oxford’s complexities and also having “respect for college autonomy” (Undergraduate student).

## **A commitment to listen to and prioritise the student view**

The next Vice-Chancellor’s experience as an academic should inform them on the importance of the student view within the University. “We need someone who can listen to and engage respectfully and productively with staff, students and citizens in Oxford and beyond” (Postgraduate student). This would ideally come from experience and would be demonstrated through “being passionate about OUSU” (Undergraduate student) or student unions at other institutions and through “providing a forum where students’ problems can be aired” (Undergraduate student).

Issues relating to student welfare are of significant interest to students, meaning that welfare is a specific element of University life that students would like the next Vice-Chancellor to have experience of dealing with and thus have an “ability to deliver structured plans that will actually increase the welfare and support for all students” (Undergraduate student).

Crucially, the next Vice-Chancellor should see Oxford University as a community with students as equal partners in making sure it remains world leading.

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