

Reports to Council

7th Week Council Michaelmas 2015

Sabbatical Officers

Becky Howe – President

Hi Pallington Bears,

Oh, 'tis the season to be jolly, for it is seventh week. Oxmas is nigh. We're on to a winner.

The last couple of weeks have flown by – it's been a blur of elections, committees, meetings, and planning. Congratulations to everyone who ran in this year's **OUSU Elections** – and to those who were successful, I'm looking forward to working with you!

It's also been a full-on time in the category of 'the government doing things'. The government released their **green paper** on higher education a couple of weeks ago. Nick, Cat and I have been working on a draft OUSU response to this, which we are bringing to OUSU Council today (see later in the agenda), to have your input. This is really, really important – the green paper could bring about some of the **biggest changes in higher education in decades**.

Here are a few other things I've been doing:

- **Uni committees.** Yeah. This is a big part of my job. In the last two weeks there have been a lot of these, including Estates Bursars' Committee, Planning and Resource Allocation Committee, Conference of Colleges, Clubs Committee, and the Careers Service Subcommittee. Conference of Colleges was a highlight – we spoke a lot about **graduate accommodation** and **undergraduate financial support**.
- I went to undergrad **PresCom**, which was really great – lots of very useful discussion. This week is grad PresCom, which I'm looking forward to.
- The Vice-Presidents and I have been popping into common room **welfare teas** to say hello. Let us know if you'd like us to come to yours!
- **Rent and accommodation:** Danny (Rent and Accommodation Officer) and I have been working on three things in this area:
 1. **Rent negotiations pack:** this is given to common rooms by OUSU every year. We've changed it quite a lot to add in some more strategic angles, and we'll be distributing it in 8th week.
 2. **Comparative booklet:** one of the pros of a collegiate system is that using comparisons is a great way to lobby a college to change something. To that end, we're putting together a booklet to compare how rent and accommodation works for members of each common room. We hope this'll be useful in rent negotiations, not just for the coming year but for future cohorts of rent negotiators. Lots of reps have filled in the info on their common room – we should have this ready to give out over the vac or early next term.

3. **Training:** we're putting together a programme of training for common room reps doing rent negotiations. This will be in early Hilary – more info soon.
- One of my pledges was to have an Oxford University Festival to **celebrate stuff that Oxford Uni students do that isn't work-related**. This is coming along nicely, though we have had to change the name to **Oxford Students' Festival** due to legal issues with using the name 'Oxford University'. Next term, we'll be able to release more details about what the festival will look like and how you can get involved!

That's all from me, for now. Have a wonderful December, and see you in 2016!

Love and hugs,

Becky x

Cat Jones – VP Access and Academic Affairs

Responses to Government Shit

We have spent much of the last week preparing responses to the consultations on the Green Paper on the future of the NSS. We have put together draft responses, which will be discussed in council this week. The changes proposed would be the biggest shakeups in higher education for decades so it is vital that council considers the implications.

Target Schools

On Saturday I attended the first round of interviews for the new Target Schools Campaign. The co-chairs will be reporting to this week's council on the campaign's activities this term. Over the next two terms, I will be working with the new committee to continue the success of the shadowing days and to expand their work by producing resources to help access reps to run road trips to their colleges' link regions. I will also be building a database to help match current undergraduates to the road trip taking place in their home region. This will vastly increase our reach as a student body engaged in access work.

Department Reviews

Last week I spent two days as a panel member reviewing the Philosophy Department. We discussed access and diversity extensively and explored issues with undergraduate and postgraduate provision. I would like to say a big thanks to all of the students who spoke to the review panel and who have helped to shape the report which will be considered by the faculty next term.

Making important connections

Since the last council, Becky, Nick and I have met with three of the four Heads of Division. Their support will be vital in delivering many of our team's pledges, including my own push for wider spread lecture recording.

Teaching Awards

On Monday night I attended the University teaching awards to promote OUSU's student-led teaching awards. We have been working hard to make sure that our awards this year are the biggest and best yet, as promised in my manifesto! Nominations will open early next term so start thinking about who you're going to nominate for best tutor or supervisor, outstanding lecturer or best support staff 😊

Committees

A big part of my job is representing you in numerous meeting and committees. Much of what is discussed is covered by confidentiality agreements but I will continue to list in each council report, the meetings I have attended on your behalf.

Education Committee; Admissions Executive; Senior Tutors Committee; Undergraduate Panel; Quality Assurance Subcommittee; MPLS Undergraduate Joint Consultative Forum

Lucy Delaney – VP Women

Over the past fortnight I have worked on my priorities for next term, such as setting up the Women's Leadership Development Programme and re-establishing the Harassment Policy Working Group to push for its adoption in every college.

Last week I attended some of Wadham's Queer Week events (what a fantastic week and well done to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen!) and led a Queer Consent Workshop with OUSU's LGBTQ Campaign Chair, and I am hoping to follow this up at the start of next term with a working group in consultation with OUSU's LGBTQ Campaign to make the workshops more extensive and inclusive.

I am also in the process of gathering together template motions for Common Room Liberation Officers other than Women's Officers so that each Common Room has adequate representation and support, and so that Common Rooms are able to make important changes with the right people leading them.

Lastly, I would like to say a huge thank you to WomCam and It Happens Here for the amazing work they've done this term – I am very much looking forward to working with them on projects next term.

Nick Cooper – VP Graduates

Evening, Council! We've somehow reached the end of another term (for Council anyway; plenty of term left for us in the office, and many grads of course). Here's what I've been up to for the last fortnight, along with the last term in general – but check out my Scrutiny report for a more objective review 😊 Also, many congratulations to Marina Lambrakis, who will make a wonderful successor in July – and to everyone else who won in our Elections. Please do consider running for one of the positions that are unfilled (see Council agenda).

- **Student Written Submission** – I hate to keep on about this, but it is super important that this is right. It's our one, sextennial [very rare use of that word, I hope] opportunity to hammer the University where its academic provisions are less than excellent. There are plenty of these, and I hope we've covered them (see the motion at this Council for the latest draft). This is now almost finished, and will just require some final tweaking before submission to the Quality Assurance Agency [QAA]. We then have to prepare for the actual visit in March.

If you haven't worked it out, this has taken up a fair amount of mine and Cat's terms, with an unbelievable amount of help from Matt, our Academic Representation Officer. Many thanks to him and to everyone who has provided feedback on previous drafts.

- **Government consultations** – the Government's timing is, as ever, impeccable. We have received the Green Paper on Higher Education, and although it came before the last Council, we have now had time to properly absorb its contents. Many aspects of it are very worrying – while in support of improving teaching excellence, the definitions of teaching excellence in the Paper are very vague and questionable. It also does little with respect to postgraduate education, although this may be a good thing if it means no meddling. You can see our draft response at this Council. We've also responded to a consultation on the National Student Survey, and I have been taking in the Nurse Review of Research Councils, which seems ok on first glance...? Any comments on any of these welcome!
- **International Students** – I had a very productive meeting with representatives of various areas of the University (Careers, Graduate Admissions, Alumni Relations, International Strategy etc.) about how to engage international students and to ensure their experience at the University is equivalent to UK students. I'm going to be taking thoughts back to the International Students Campaign, who are in full swing now under the new committee who are awesome. More to follow in Hilary, including our International Festival in 6th week.
- **Committees** – I have represented you on Education Committee – giving our views on the Government's Green Paper, and receiving useful feedback from the University on their planned response. I also attended the JCR Presidents' Committee, IT Committee (boom) and the meeting of graduate Department reps in Social Sciences, which was really useful.
- **OUSU internal stuff** – continuing with governance stuff. Watched the elections count. Fed back on Council review (see separate report, and please get in touch if you have questions). We'll be bringing some governing documents changes in Hilary – if you have comments on how we do things, **especially our elections**, please get in touch!
- **Various other stuff** – We had useful meetings with three of the four Heads of Division (fourth to follow); I spoke to lots of potential applicants at the Humanities Graduate Open Day, and Cat & I met Vanessa Redgrave and Simon Armitage, the Professor of Poetry, at a dinner to celebrate the Bodleian's 12 millionth book (it was a Shelley poem).

I'm going to use the Christmas vacation to gather thoughts ready to get started on manifesto pledges in earnest in Hilary Term. This will include a consultation on Masters course satisfaction, a push to improve the level of graduate accommodation available, and working on our Access Vision (see 5th week Council for details).

Please get in touch anytime you need anything, or have thoughts on anything graduate, international or mature students-y. Have a wonderful vacation and see you in January!

Nick

Emily Silcock – VP Charities and Community

Hi Council,

Here's what I've been up to for the last couple of weeks:

University Tax

This is my win of the week. I've been working with the University to look at their procurement policy, especially with regard to tax avoidance. This week, the University agreed to adapt its procurement policy to take into account tax avoidance in other countries. This acknowledges the wider impact of tax avoidance and evasion on the local and international economy, and in particular its cost to some of the world's poorest countries.

Christmas Friends

I'm running a scheme to match student with local families for Christmas day. Sign ups for this are now open and going smoothly.

Campaigning for Change

Next term, I'm running a training course on campaigning. I've been collaborating with the careers service on this and have organised workshops run by Amnesty International, Oxfam and People & Planet. Sign ups have just opened, so if you're interested, look on the OUSU website.

Moving Out campaign

In eight week, we'll be running collections of both food and anything else to be donated to the Food Bank and to the British Heart Foundation. There will be boxes in almost every college, but if you are at Exeter, Pembroke or Trinity and you'd like to help out with this then please get in touch.

Bikes

I've been working with Estates Services and Security Services to set up a bike club, with discount, free bike lessons and safety advice for students.

Voter Registration

The Voter Registration deadline to be included in the boundary review was Sunday. Thanks to all of you who ran voter registration events in your colleges.

RAG

Our RAG co-ordinator has been off sick for the last week or so, so I've been covering on a lot of urgent RAG stuff.

Community Wardens

We've hired three new Community Wardens over the last week, so we've now got a full team going into the next term. The wardens will be out door-knocking this week and next, giving out canvas bags full of information and goodies.

Environment and Sustainability

I've been scoping out the possibility of creating a Sustainability fund, partly funded by battels levies. I've so far had 196 people fill out my survey and my aim was 200, so if you want to help me reach it, visit bit.ly/SusFundSurvey.

Campaigns

Finally, two out of three campaigns have had new chairs, so I've been doing handover and induction with them.

As always, you can contact me at vpcandc@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

Part-Time Executive Officers

Minerva Lim – International Students' Officer

Hi Council! I will be stepping down by the end of this term but it has been a great year for me helping to improve the welfare of international students in Oxford. Over this past year I've successfully created a network of communication for international student reps in the various colleges, which has helped to forge inter-collegiate friendships and partnerships between the reps and built a more cohesive international student community. I have also campaigned to raise awareness of international student issues by writing to media platforms like the Cherwell and the Guardian Student, and have helped to revive the International Students' Campaign, which had its second meeting last week and which looks set to have a great year ahead! Looking forward, we have the International Festival on 26 Feb next Hilary, and one of the Campaign's key aims is strengthening international student representation in common rooms, so do get involved however you can. I hope you will give your support to the Campaign and to my successor, and continue to build a more inclusive and welcoming community for international students in Oxford.

Lindsay Lee – Disabled Students' Officer

Hi, Council! First, let me say I'm so sad this is my last meeting as an exec officer. I've really enjoyed this role and working with so many students who are so passionate about the future of this university. I'd like to briefly list the things I'll focus on during handover. These are the things I think should be the priorities for the officer to come over me:

- Disability, Sex and Relationships Workshop (perhaps spreading it out to multiple workshops)
- Lobbying for increased funding for accessibility adjustments in OUSU and the Disability Advisory Service
- Lobbying for OUSU to increasingly follow its policy about accessibility of OUSU events
- Data collection about the disability experience in Oxford via survey
- Working with DAS on developing the Common Framework for Supporting Disabled Students
- Supporting and advising Oxford Students' Disability Community in whatever ways they wish
- Supporting disabilities reps in colleges

It's a large job, and there are countless other things that need to be done to build a truly inclusive university. But these are some of the things that I think can have the most long-term impact for disabled students.

Thank you, Council, for a fantastic year! As ever, email me at disability@ousu.ox.ac.uk until the end of this term, and from there after you can contact me at lindsay.lee@wadh.ox.ac.uk.

Sam Shearn – Student Parents and Carers Officer

The student carer mailing list has been publicised and I now have a handful of addresses from people who have responded.

I had a rather depressing meeting with the University Hardship Fund committee where I was told that with a budget of 150,000 pounds and many 'noble' cases which they already have to say no to, there is little scope for any help for student parents, barring the most exceptional circumstances. This is depressing because I had been told by other senior administrative staff that this was my best chance for improving outcomes for worst-off student parents. Otherwise I have, as usual, been answering various email queries from student parents.

No one put themselves forward for election for the Student Parent and Carer PTE role, despite multiple attempts to encourage nominations. I hope that in Hilary term someone will be prepared to be voted in via Council. However I notice a general worrying trend of graduate students not engaging with student politics and I think Council should reflect on this.

Jenny Walker – LGBTQ Officer

Not much from me this week I'm afraid (OUSU elections are an overwhelming thing to undertake). I've helped organise Queer Consent Workshops for queerweek along with VP Women, and besides that just keeping up with individual requests for support from LGBTQ Reps. Towards the end of term I'll get together a handover document for my successor and make sure everything is as organised as possible for when they start. I'll also arrange a

handover meeting with them at some point.

I've got a lot from my role and have worked with some inspiring and caring people. I hope that some of the work I've done can be built on next year, particularly campaigning for a transition fund!

Rita Nissim – Graduate Welfare Officer

Hi OUSU Council!

It has been a great couple of weeks! David (previous Health and Welfare Officer) has forwarded me his work on **mental health packs** and I will be working with Lindsay (Disabled Students Officer) in getting a final version out to common rooms! There is also a project on **sports and behaviour** (in the context of respecting women) that started just before the Sabbatical Officers' handover and which I am hoping to meet with Becky about before term ends so to make plans on how it will move forward. I have also engaged with about **10 common rooms** who want to introduce **morning after pill reimbursements** - in the process I have written a template motion as well as created a database of JCRs and MCRs that currently offer a scheme/don't but want to but don't have enough money. I am now writing a second version of the motion for common rooms that don't have a large enough budget to set money aside and where for example an opt-out levy on battels would work better. I will be hearing from hopefully all of them by the end of term re whether the motions passed ☺ Finally, Rebecca (Graduate Women's Officer) is writing a great **sexual health brochure** which I am helping in any way she needs with, I am writing up some information Turning Point need for the **Alcohol Awareness Training** they are working on, I will be helping with the **HIV & Chlamydia Testing** Event on Wednesday and will be running **Grad WelfCom** on Thursday. One of the best bits though has been actually being emailed by MCR Welfare Officers asking for help with specific issues they are having (rather than them replying to my emails, which is also good!) – I think MCR involvement has increased a lot this term which has felt really rewarding (I no longer feel the emails I have sent to them have been in vain!)

Due to being in the final stages of my DPhil thesis writing at the start of term and on jury duty since I submitted three weeks ago, I have not been able to get involved in the **Suspended Status Students Campaign**. I have however forwarded the research that was done over the summer for it (credit for basically all of the info gathered to Eden Tanner); there is also a draft survey that Marina and I made (as per previous plans) that is there, though not sure if it fits with the new campaign's plans. Re **First Responders Policy**, I have approached MCRs to adopt it but most of them had other priorities (yay for Christ Church adopting it though!). I will be bringing up consent workshops, morning after pill reimbursements as well as first responders policy up at Grad WelfCom as a final way of making sure Welfare Officers know examples of projects OUSU can help them with. Will also be bringing the mental health packs and sexual health brochure to their attention and encouraging them to run for the Graduate Welfare Officer position.

Since this is my last OUSU Council Report, I also wanted to thank all the amazing people I have worked with over the past two terms – special thanks to Anna (previous Vice President Women), Jack (previous Vice President Graduates), Nick (current Vice President Graduates), Marina (Graduate Academic Affairs Officer) and Rebecca (Graduate Women's Officer) ☺

Hope you are having a good second half of term and don't hesitate to email me if there is anything I can help with at gradwelfare@ousu.ox.ac.uk!

Rita

Will Brown – Clubs and Societies Officer

I continued responding to students' email queries about clubs and societies, and providing guidance/advice.

I acquired the most up-to-date list of registered clubs and societies from the Clubs Committee office, which I will be integrating with the previous categorised list I put together.

I finished the clubs and societies survey early in fifth week, which I had hoped to have had sent out with the President's weekly email on either of the Fridays since. Unfortunately, due to a lack of responses to my emails, this hasn't happened. I am hoping to be in touch before this Friday coming, or at least before the end of term.

Gareth Sessel – Academic Affairs Officer

Hello council. Recently, I have been evaluating OUSU documents from 2013, unearthed by Cat Jones et al, about college academic feedback sessions. Some impressive work was done to increase student feedback and to increase the responses to this feedback on college and faculty levels. These documents need updating, but I believe they will be very useful to build on for the current feedback project. In addition to this, I have started preparing a handover document for the new PTE Academic Affairs rep. Please email suggestions, ideas and comments to academicaffairs@ousu.ox.ac.uk

Yoni Stone – Community Outreach and Charities Officer

There was a donation session this week in central Oxford at which a number of students, motivated by OUSU, Oxford Donors and Pint for a Pint donated, which is great news. St. John's, St. Hugh's and Lincoln have become the 3rd, 4th and 5th JCRs to offer a Pint for a Pint. Society registration has taken a bit of a set back as Barclays have rejected our latest request for a bank account but we are working on our re-application.

Marina Lambrakis – Graduate Academic Affairs Officer

Hello Council,

I can't believe I'm writing my final report as Grad Academic Affairs Officer! This year has flown by, and has been a real eye-opener. A year sounds like a lot, but really you barely have time to get your bearings before it's 7th week Michaelmas and you realise that you haven't had time to work on half the things you wanted to.

The last 12 months while I've been in office have been rather unusual, and I've found myself adapting my activities to deal with things that have cropped up as I've gone along. As I took office in Hilary the VP (Graduates) resigned, so I spent much of the term subbing in, attending committees and making sure that the graduate voice was still being heard at University level, particularly on issues such as graduate admissions, research, supervision, and part-time study. The big project I helped out with in Hilary was the Save Castle Mill campaign - I supported the sabbs as much as possible with this, and we were successful, which was a great win. I also spent some time working on the issue of college advisors, which I hope to return to in the future.

I continued to represent grads on various University committees in Trinity term (particularly on library provision), but with a newly elected VP (Grads) I could focus a bit more on some of my own projects. I held a session for departmental and divisional reps on teaching opportunities, I organised a Masters Forum, and coordinated a meeting about how the Div Reps and academic affairs officers can best work together coherently, all of which were useful in terms of thinking about what works and what doesn't. I also did a fair amount of preliminary work on suspended status students (with the Grad Welfare Officer) and graduate access (with the VP (Grads) and VP (Grads) elect).

Over the summer and into Michaelmas, I wasn't able to get as much done as I intended to, due to a pile-up of personal and health issues. I volunteered at the University open days and the international students' orientation days, and I visited common rooms in Freshers' Week, in an effort to improve graduate access and engagement with OUSU. It's a slow process, but I do think we're making some headway on this front. Apart from this I've worked a bit on the University's professional development programmes, and am coordinating a meeting between grad representatives in OUSU and representatives of Early Career Researchers and research staff, to link us up better on issues where our interests intersect.

It's been a packed year, and I feel that a lot of progress was made on a wide range of issues. I haven't ticked off all the pledges I made last year, partly due to things taking unexpected turns, but I've done my best to at least begin work on as many of them as possible, which I will be writing up into a handover document for my successor (fingers crossed someone comes forward for it!). I want to say a huge thank you to Jack Matthews, Nick Cooper, and James Blythe, for their support and patience this year, as well as Matt Tennant and Ami Gell, who have made my job so much easier. I'm looking forward to having a break, but I'll be back before you know it...

Marina

Rebecca Kuperberg – Graduate Womens’ Officer

Hi Council!

Over the past two weeks, I've continued to work on the four projects I mentioned in my last report to Council. The VP for Grad Welfare and I have been working on a sexual health brochure to accompany sexual health items in MCRs (JCRs are also welcome to have this, if they are interested!). We are also compiling information about graduate welfare elections and I will be asking for more grad Presidents to follow up. Lastly, we have a few grad colleges that are interested in holding consent workshops, so I will be seeking to plan those in further weeks. For all MCRs that would like to hold trainings and workshops, please get in touch!

Fairlie Kirkpatrick Baird – Environment and Ethics Officer

Hi Council!

This week I've been doing some work on Veggie Pledge, which is now coming to a close. I've got the prizes for the winners of the competitions (Wadham won most college pledges, Chloe Wall won biggest carbon saving, and Team Ruskin won biggest team prize) from OxCo-op and I've been delivering them to their recipients – Wadham's SU meeting had their prizes on Sunday, and I'm chatting to the other prize winners to get them their goodies. I've also been organising a final Veggie Pledge dinner, which I'm hoping to do on Monday of 8th week, which is the last day of November. I'm currently working out which room to book for the dinner, and what kind of food to get – I may collaborate with VegSoc on that as well. I've also made an excel spread sheet to try to get information about which colleges have what provisions for vegetarians and vegans, so that I can try to move forward with a concerted campaign to improve these options in halls for students. Finally, I've been collaborating with Emily, the Divestment Campaign, the Hub, and several other organisations to hold some climate actions in Oxford this week leading up to the march in London on the 29th of November for COP21.

Henna Shah – Access and Admissions Officer

Hi Council

Firstly, I was delighted to see multiple people run for my position in the OUSU elections last week, and I'd like to congratulate Adam who's been elected as my successor. I'm sure he'll do a fantastic job. Over the past fortnight, I've been meeting with individuals who were thinking about running for OUSU, as well as others interested in access more generally, which has been really productive. I met with ACS on Friday to provide a framework for Target Schools Shadowing in conjunction with the society. I hope drawing up a document and including it in my handover will mean that this really great scheme continues, and that my successor(s) can build on this through partnerships with other societies. Apart from that my time has mainly been taken up with working on the Refugee Campaign - we've now passed a motion through Magdalen JCR, Merton JCR and are planning to pass more in MCRs and JCRs before the end of term. We are now focussing on meeting with the University and Colleges to coordinate funding and the

structure of the programme so we can get something in place for students.

If anyone has any access comments/questions/ideas, I'm still your girl till the end of term!

Lastly, I'd like to thank Cat who's been a great AcAff so far and I'm sure she'll do a great job for the rest of the year.

Henna x

Lauren McKarus – Graduate International Students' Officer

Since taking up the role of Graduate International Student Officer in 2nd week, I have met with the VP of graduates and International Student Officer to hold an international undergrad/grad event as well as reestablishing the International student committee. We have also been working on a questionnaire to better understand the attitudes among graduate students upon arriving to Oxford. This will provide a frame of reference for the future Graduate International Student Officer. In order to not detract from the barometer, we have postponed the sending of the survey but will be sending them out shortly. I have also been working on writing visiting students into the governing principles of OUSU with the VP of graduates –we have since gathered visiting student data and have found students willing to represent the group in council – we hope that these changes will take effect by Trinity term and will be a permanent addition to OUSU. In following up with the graduate event, the few graduate international officers in existence and I have chosen to change the date of the event to the start of Hilary term to accommodate graduates' busy end of Michaelmas schedules.

Danny Waldman – Rent ad Accommodation Officer

Hey council - not a massively busy week from me this week. Been keeping on top of emails from people facing accommodation issues from their colleges, and the rent booklet for presidents is in production - we will be giving it out at the last prescom of term. Anyone interested in running for R&A in the by-election, please do get in touch - projects like the information booklet for people living out facing exploitative landlords and campaigning for more housing generally are super important and it would be a shame not to have somebody championing these! R&A love x

Joe Reason – Common Room Support Officer

Hey council,

So final report from me before my term ends. Firstly I want to see thank you to all the reps who I have met with over this year and all the help from the central OUSU office that have helped me achieve what I have wanted to achieve.

Over this year, I have been working on meeting with Common Room officers and over the past two weeks help another regular meeting with these common room OUSU reps; our final one of

term will be held Tuesday of 8th week so please come along if you are a rep.

Secondly, where possible, I have been attending meetings of common room President's, both undergraduate and graduate, and hope to be at their next meeting in 8th week.

I cannot be at council this evening, but if you have any questions on my report or what this role entails, just drop me an email at commonrooms@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

Council love

Joe

Elliot Parrott – Trans Officer

Last week was spent almost entirely on finalising the arrangements for the Trans Day of Remembrance service, and I've since had feedback that people felt the event was successful, so it seems to have been time well spent.

Stephanie Kelley – Womens' Campaign Officer

I'm coming to my last days in the role of Women's Campaign Officer, and it's flown by. The past two weeks of WomCam have been a fun whirlwind, but before I get into that I want to offer huge congratulations to members of our committee who were successful in OUSU Elections: Catherine Kelly, General Committee, is the new LGBTQ Officer, and Meera Sachdeva, Publicity Officer, is the new International Students Officer. Also huge congratulations to Iggy Wilde, our Disabled Women's Rep, for running a great and very, very close election with Ronak Patel for DSO.

Chair of WomCam and several committee members have been involved in organising one of our 7th week events: how climate change is an important feminist issue. With the COP21 talks in Paris rapidly approaching, a briefing session seemed very necessary for our members. Additionally, on Thursday of 7th, the NUS Women's Campaign is coming to Wadham for a self care session, which should be oodles of fun. All self-defining women or those with a complex gender identity which includes woman welcome, it's from 6-8 PM!

On Monday 8th week, I've organised a screening of the documentary Private Violence in Balliol's theatre, which I think I mentioned in one of my earlier reports – it's a documentary on domestic violence, centered on the federal prosecution of one particularly horrible case. The rates of domestic violence in the US and UK are nearly identical, so I'm hoping the film has just as much impact here as it does at American university screenings.

In addition to current committee members increasing their level of involvement with OUSU, in 5th week we elected a new committee, filling all roles for next term.

As the organisation side of WomCam winds down, I'll be preparing handover documents in advance for the individual (as yet unknown!) who runs and wins the election for my role in Council. I decided in 7th week council in Trinity (when I ran) that I would only do the role for a term, for welfare reasons and the need to focus on my degree, but I will miss it dearly. As of yet, I have no registered interest from anyone considering running for Women's Campaign Officer, but if someone would like to chat about what the role entails and how to apply, please don't hesitate to get in touch at womensofficer@ousu.ox.ac.uk. I'm happy to help.

Think that's all. Thank you to the sabb team especially Lucy and Becky for being so helpful during my time in this role, and to a committee for a wonderful term.

Divisional Board Representatives

Greg Auger – Undergraduate MPLS

We had MPLS Academic Committee happened this week - ask if you want to know more about the possibility of retakes of second year exams, project supervisors marking projects, or the introduction of a 'merit' classification for 4th years and taught graduate courses.

By the time that Council happens we'll also have had a meeting with the new Head of Division (setup up Jacob) and the Undergraduate Joint Consultative Forum (with student representatives from each department). Divisional Board is on Friday.

Hayley Han – Postgraduate Medical Sciences

Last week, I spoke to Jane Dale, the assistant academic registrar via email and I have been invited to the Board's Education policy and standards committee meeting this Friday. She sent me an agenda so I have been keeping myself busy reading the materials before the meeting. I also have a meeting scheduled with her on Friday to discuss what we can do in the coming year.

Aside that, I have also contacted the Medical Sciences Board library manager to have a meeting.

Claire Paulus – Undergraduate Social Sciences

Since the last OUSU council I have attended both the Social Sciences Library Committee and the Social Sciences Div Teaching Audit Committee.

OUSU Campaigns

Sam Peacock and Freya Turner – On Your Doorstep

On Your Doorstep Termly Report MT 2015

After this year's stall at Freshers' fair, which was very popular, we now have 882 people on the mailing list and handed out 250 flyers, and were pleased that many incoming students seemed to have heard about the campaign due to our successful petition against Oxford City Council's PSPO last term – which gained 72,000 signatures.

Our main event this term was Homelessness Awareness Week, a week of awareness raising and fundraising events in 4th week, which raised over £1000 for Oxford Homeless Pathways and Aspire Oxford. We held two panel discussions, one on gender and homelessness (a collaboration with WomCam), and one on policy; these events had a combined audience of 60 students. We also organised a volunteering taster session for OYD members at the Gatehouse, and staff gave us very positive feedback about the students' engagement. The biggest event of the week was a Jazz night at Freud's (in collaboration with the RAG network) which raised £850 and was attended by over 300 students. Another popular event was the screening of 'not just homeless' a documentary that aims to break down stereotypes about homelessness and was created this summer by students (including one from On Your Doorstep) and the homeless community in Oxford. This was held at Turl St Kitchen and 70 students attended, but we reached capacity and had to turn away over 15 people, so we hope to put on more screenings of this film in future terms, as it is a really effective way to get students thinking about the issues; the film generated a lively discussion. We also collaborated with Just Love, TSHA, and the Companions of Malta to encourage students to try out homeless outreach in the evenings, which seems to have raised the profile of these groups and encouraged more students to attend regularly, according to their leaders.

Page likes on our On Your Doorstep Facebook page went up by 20% during the week and we also had a page dedicated to the week which got 238 likes and our post reach totalled 1,623 people. At the events we distributed keyrings which show the number to call to link rough sleepers up with outreach services, so that students can help when they see someone rough sleeping.

Meanwhile we have three working groups working on longer term projects. Our college liaison group has now got in contact with a college rep in 13 colleges and we hope to have one in every college by the end of next term. They are distributing collection boxes for homelessness charities to each porters' lodge, and will help us publicise events and petitions etc.

Another group is lobbying local cafes to introduce Pay it Forward schemes, such as the one already offered by Java Social on George St; OxCoop have already begun to do this. The third group has designed a poster as a positive alternative to Oxford City Council's anti-begging campaign (Your Kindness Can Kill) which encourages students to stop and chat with rough sleepers, and offer companionship, food, hot drinks or buy the Big Issue. They are hoping to

present this to the homelessness team at Oxford City Council next term and in the meantime, put up posters for the campaign in all colleges and departments, to encourage more compassionate and thoughtful engagement with the homeless community.

Finally, at the end of this term we are starting a petition to protest Oxfordshire County Council's proposed £1.5 million cuts to the Housing Related Support budget which could force some vital charities to close down; this action will be ongoing in Hilary Term.

Finances

Awareness week: Rent of Freud cost £240 (£200 + £40 VAT), plus hire of mix deck from AC disco cost £126 (£105 + £21 VAT). Speaker expenses: £23.60 for Miranda Miller (inc. VAT)
Keyrings: £167.95 +£33.59 VAT = £201.54

Total plus VAT is £591.14

Total when VAT claimed back - £492 (approx. – need to check value of VAT on Miranda's expenses)

Rizwana Rashid – STUDENTSplus

We got our new committee together and planning the second social of term.

Christmas drinks and nibbles - all invited! 2nd Dec. Wed 7 PM · Balliol College

The first social went well. 30 Oct.Halloween Drinks
Fri 8:30 PM · Kellogg College

Chris Williams – Raise and Give (RAG)

Lost has successfully raised £12,750 for our four RAG charities.

The Secret Party ran successfully on Friday and the estimated amount of money raised is £400.

The Oxmas Eve party is organised and over 60% of tickets have been sold. So far over £600 has already been raised and it looks to raise close to £1,000.

The Oxmas Formal Hall Surfing sold out in less than 24 hours. This has raised around £400

Jailbreak has gone on sale and we hope to have over 200 participants on this trip.

Amsterdam planning has begun and marketing is about to commence. We aim to have at least 250 students from Oxford.

RAG Casino is continuing to run charity events and are working on contracts with a number of different ball committees.

RAG RAIDs are planning a mega raid trip to Bath at the end of this term.

RAG Network have been involved in a number of successful events including the Sansara concert in Exeter college, The Big Match Party at Freud's and the On Your Doorstep event at Freud's. The RAG Network are also continuing to assist with Pink Week, which will take place

next term.

Interviews are about to commence for the next RAG Ball committee.

Archie Jones – Target Schools

General:

Target Schools has had a successful Summer Vacation and Michaelmas Term, visiting around 1000 students via Outreach Roadshows and bringing over 100 to Oxford as part of our Shadowing Scheme.

We received excellent feedback from the shadowing days, with 60 students providing anonymous feedback as follows:

Shadowing Experience: 8.3/10

Workshop: 8.4/10

Overall Day: 8.7/10

General Organisation: 8.3/10

Despite doubling its Shadowing Day capacity for 2015, Target Schools continues to be heavily oversubscribed. We have also informally noted an increase in distance travelled to take part in the programme.

Noting its strength in this area, committee members of Target Schools have held preliminary meetings with OUSU and Colleges over the expansion of its roadshow provision. Committee members of Target Schools have also continued to host 'On Tour' training sessions for students wishing to head back to their old schools. We are currently looking at means of digitising this training to expand reach / accessibility.

Adam Kellett (Hertford) and Benjamin Peacock (St Hugh's) have been appointed for Co-Chairs for 2016. Both have extensive experience of access work both inside and outside Target Schools, with the current co-chairs having full confidence in their ability to further expand upon the progress made this year.

Finances:

Target Schools has spent no money during Michaelmas Term, something facilitated by the goodwill of volunteers, the University Admissions service, and various Colleges. While it is worth noting that such circumstances may change as the organisation continues to expand, we will always attempt to build and maintain those relationships that enable us to minimise costs.

As stated in previous meetings, the longer term ambition for Target Schools is to provide full reimbursement for students taking part in our programme (something far beyond the limits of our current budget). We will report in the near future on how we can move towards this.

Target Schools is still processing expense claims for its Summer Roadshow, with the figure rising to several hundred pounds. These costs have been met by Queens and Hertford, again allowing us to preserve our budget.

Claire Fleming – Living Wage Campaign

This has been a good term for the Living Wage campaign. We had a really enthusiastic team at freshers fair and have some great new campaign members. £50 was spent on fliers for freshers fair. Most excitingly, the campaign was awarded most dynamic campaign of 2015 at the Living Wage awards. Additionally, to celebrate National living wage week, we held a panel talk entitled 'What is it like to live in one of the most expensive cities in the UK?'. We hosted Danny Dorling, Halford Mackinder Professor of Geography and author of 'All that is Solid: How the Great Housing Disaster defines our Times and What We Can Do About It' (2015), Emma Kosmin from the Living Wage Foundation and van Coulter, councillor for Barton and Sandhills to discuss Oxford and the Living Wage. It was well attended and the national campaign has requested that we write a blog write up for their website. Additionally, we ran a humans of New York style campaign during living wage week where we interviewed and photographed various members of staff from different colleges. We have also continued to research which colleges are at what stage in terms of accrediting and will continue the pressure for each college to accredit.

Marcelo Nascimento – International Students' Campaign

As most of you know, the International Students' Campaign is back. We as international students know the difficulties that we face to study and live in Oxford and how important it is to have a strong and influential International Students' Campaign. We just had our second meeting and the main goals for this year are to create a solid ISC, get international students involved and make them aware of their representatives. We have already established meetings every fortnight with the newly elected committee and we are working to write a long-lasting agenda that is strict enough to be enduring but flexible enough to adjust to the current concerns. Our yearly projects include events in Freshers' Week and the International Festival.

Council Review

Report on review of OUSU Council

Background

In 7th week Trinity Term 2015, the Sabbatical Officers mandated themselves to review the rules and practices of OUSU Council. This followed a survey of Council voting members (past and present), the report¹ on which made several recommendations to improve Council's ability to represent student opinion.

The Sabbatical Officers have discussed these recommendations, including with current and recent Chairs of Council, OUSU's Trustee Board and the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee. The below points are the Sabbatical Officers' thoughts to improve engagement and Council's ability to represent student opinion effectively. We also note work by the current Chair of Council in these areas, and improved attendance at Council this term, and hope this will continue.

¹ See pp 17-21 here: [http://ousu.org/pageassets/representing-you/council/7th-Week-TT15-Council-Agenda\(1\).pdf](http://ousu.org/pageassets/representing-you/council/7th-Week-TT15-Council-Agenda(1).pdf)

Recommendations

- Not to substantially change the composition of Council (that is, the model of Common Room reps forming the majority of voting members) at this time.
 - The current votes system should however be simplified (most probably to 3 per Common Room, regardless of size).
 - The option of calling a General Meeting via e.g. a Council vote remains open, if it is ever felt Council is insufficiently representative.
 - Based on survey responses, it may be worth considering the status of Part Time Executive votes, in line with their increasing size (and therefore dominance over Common Room votes). To allay any fears about losing voices from liberation groups, any changes should be combined with increasing the number of votes for Campaigns.
- To maintain the current timing of Council (Wednesday 5.30pm)
 - However the Trustee Board are encouraged to increase funding for Council, to allow for food or drink for attendees.
- To greatly simplify the rules of Council, with any loss of rules replaced by Chair's discretion by ruling². This will hopefully maintain the current system *in practice*, while simplifying the governance for both Chairs and attendees.
 - The rules will also be separated from OUSU's existing governing documents, allowing Council the power to set its own rules.
- To assign more discretion to Council's Steering Committee
 - The draft agenda would be simplified, and after Reports and Elections, there would be items to **note**, to **decide** and to **debate**.
 - Steering Committee could determine that certain items, such as second readings of governance changes, would ordinarily be **noted** without discussion (one or a few students in Council could still require a discussion). The format would also permit **debates** without a vote. These could include matters raised via OUSU's online suggestion box.
 - Steering Committee could put recommended time limits for motions/the meeting (extendable by the Chair or 2/3 majority vote), and allow motions after the deadline but before agenda distribution, for greater flexibility. Motions for **debate** may be accepted after the deadline.
 - Steering and Internal Affairs Committees would be merged, given the frequency that roles on both go unfilled, and the infrequency that the latter has to meet. The RO will also be included.
- To consider a system whereby votes that neither pass nor fall by 2/3 majority move to a referendum, or *preferendum* (i.e. more than 2 options).
 - Referenda would be at a fixed time each term and collated together (so a Council motion in 3rd, 5th or 7th week Hilary Term would move to referendum in, say, 4th week Trinity).
 - This may give greater student input on controversial decisions, while maintaining Council's general decision-making authority.
 - The Steering Committee would convert motions into referendum questions. Referenda may only be advisory, at Council's discretion.
- To consider permitting co-option into committee roles where vacant
 - A considerable number of positions re-appear at each Council. We will explore whether co-option could be used when positions have been vacant for two meetings (which may include ratification by Council).

² A ruling can be overridden by a 2/3 majority of Council.

- To make the Policy Book a more long-term, strategic document
 - The Policy Book currently contains snippets from Council motions, and can be difficult to navigate. It may help to move to a series of Visions (see the Education Vision, passed TT15, or the upcoming Access & Welfare Visions) that are amended less frequently.
 - Council would retain the ability to pass Policy, but this would hopefully in practice be less frequent (as has happened with education policy).
- To continue to advertise Council better, especially to under-represented groups
 - This is for the Chair of Council, the Sabbatical Officers and OUSU staff to consider how more students can be encouraged to attend Council and/or bring motions. This includes the many unused votes.
 - This will be in conjunction with better Common Room engagement, including OUSU Reps and other officers.
- To work with the Scrutiny Committee to facilitate their ability to effectively scrutinise the Executive and Divisional Board Reps.
 - This may include increasing their number to 5, adding Divisional Board Reps to the requirement to report to Council, or asking Council to produce guidelines for Scrutiny Committee's activity for clarity
- To ensure that the current Chair of Council produces an effective handover mechanism for future Chairs, to provide continuity.

Going forward

Any changes to OUSU's governance require Council's approval in Hilary Term – as such, the above are just suggestions. If you have comments, please send them to Nick Cooper, Vice President (Graduates), vpgraduates@ousu.ox.ac.uk. We are happy to discuss this at a future Council, but history suggests a broad Council debate is less productive than bringing new rules and assessing Council's contentment.

Report on Careers

In 7th week council last term, council resolved:

- To mandate the President and Vice-President (Charities and Community) to lobby the University and Careers Service for reform of Careers Service funding to support both low-income firms in advertising to Oxford students and low-income students in having access to job opportunities.
- To mandate the President and Vice-President (Charities and Community) to report back to OUSU Council in late Michaelmas Term 2015 on their progress.

We have done this and we are now reporting back to Council with progress

Low income students: The Careers Service firmly believes that it is the duty of the employer to provide funding for transport to insight days and interviews. They said that if a student contacts them about needing funding for such activities, then they are happy to lobby the employer to provide this, on behalf of the student.

Low income firms: Just over two year's ago, the Careers Service ran a 'beyond profit' careers fair, in collaboration with OUSU, which was free for firms to attend. However, they still found that it was difficult to get firms with paying employment opportunities to attend the fair and

therefore the fair required an extraordinary amount of work. Furthermore, the fair only received a footfall of around 100 students. Therefore the Careers Service is not inclined to look at running a similar scheme again.

OUSU is working with the careers service to explore other options of how we can support students looking at going into this sector. If you have any suggestions, please email vpcandc@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

Emily Silcock, Vice-President (Charities & Community), and Becky Howe, President.