

Reports to Council

7th Week Council Michaelmas 2016

Jack	Hampton	President	RECEIVED
Sandy	Downs	VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities	RECEIVED
Orla	White	VP Women	RECEIVED
Marina	Lambrakis	VP Graduates	RECEIVED
Eden	Bailey	VP Access & Academic Affairs	RECEIVED
Beth	Currie	VP Charities & Community	RECEIVED
Tom	Wadsworth	Academic Affairs Campaign Officer	RECEIVED
Adam	Kellett	Access & Admissions Officer	RECEIVED
Eric	LeGresley	Clubs and Societies Support Officer	
Ronak	Patel	Disabled Students' Officer	
Bo	Zhang	Grad Academic Affairs Officer	RECEIVED
Connor	Broyles	Grad International Students' Officer	RECEIVED
Catherine	White	Grad Women's Officer	
Katy	Haigh	Health & Welfare Officer	
Meera	Sachdeva	International Students' Officer	
Catherine	Kelly	LGBTQ Officer	
Tuesday	Doherty	Womens' Campaign Officer	

Sabbatical Officers

Jack Hampton – President

In the last two weeks I have done quite a lot.

I have become a registered bone marrow donor – this was a lot easier and less painful than it sounds please read my blog for more details.

I led a hundred Oxford students to London to take part in the national demo against fees and cuts – this was very cold but was an impressive Oxford contingent with many imaginative chants particularly considering many larger unions managed to bring significantly less students.

I have been invited to speak at a conference in Pompona – which is pretty cool.

I have done some very exciting work on improving how we spend our outreach and access budgets as a university filling in for Eden on admissions executive

And finally I chaired my first board away day which was tough but resulted in a good discussion of strategy and how to bring OUSU forward

For more details please watch my video and read my Blog!

Eden Bailey – Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs)

Unfortunately I've been unwell and not in the office for the majority of the time since the last Council Δ this has been very rubbish and sad but I'm really glad to be back now and getting thoroughly stuck into things.

A quick note on the HE Bill – the third reading took place on Monday at Parliament. Over this weekend, many of you joined us to come to the National Demo and separately lots of people wrote to their MPs urging them to vote in the interests of students on Monday. It was so heartening to see the support from the wider student body in fighting this, and I really hope this level of engagement can be sustained. A number of amendments from the NUS were tabled which was fantastic, but attendance from MPs was very poor, and the way votes went was also disappointing. There is thus still lots and lots to do!

I also want to give a special shout out and deep thanks to Jack who attended the Admissions Executive on my behalf, and Marina, who did an entire departmental review whilst I was off ill. I'm very lucky to have such committed colleagues, as are the students of this university. We all have a lot of demands on our time, and such was their commitment to ensuring student representation that they made their lives even more difficult by taking on additional work whilst I was completely unable to, which I felt awful about! Show your sabbatical officers lots of love. They very much deserve it.

As always, I am updating my twitter with embarrassing frequently, including a list of what I've done each day so please do take a look at that and ask me if you have any questions.

Finally, well done on making it to seventh week, and happy Oxmas!

Eden Bailey @OUSU_AcAff vpaccaff@ousu.ox.ac.uk

Beth Currie – Vice-President (Charities & Community)

Hey Council,

I am still looking for chairs of our Environment Campaign (to oversee the Climate Justice and Food Justice campaigns, the Edible Planting group, and VegSoc) and Community Campaign (to oversee OUSU's homelessness campaign On Your Doorstep and the Living Wage Campaign) – so if you're interested in either role, please do get in touch!

Hopefully, our East Oxford Warden team will be full by the end of this week which will mean both teams can work at full capacity as of next term. The Jericho team have done great work with their #KnowYourNeighbour campaign and taking out treats to students camping outside NOPS overnight.

I attended the University's Museums Board, and was extremely impressed with the work GLAM are doing to ensure integration of the University's collections into teaching. I also attended the University's Sustainability Steering Group and updated them on the work OUSU is doing in this area. We spoke about how to best institutionalise handover on environmental projects in common rooms and the possibility of a campaign focussing on communal eating/pot lucks, as this would benefit both the environment in terms of energy saving, and welfare given its social nature.

I'm organising end of term clear outs for the BHF and CEF, and also the Community Christmas scheme for this year – so if you are a student who is in Oxford over Christmas and would like to be linked up with some local residents for the day, email vpcandc@ousu.ox.ac.uk

We also had the OUSU trustee board away day this week, and I helped out at the National Demo (where Oxford had one of the biggest blocs – nice work pals).

Stay cool,

Beth

Marina Lambrakis – Vice-President (Graduates)

Happy 7th week Council! Can't believe we're at the end of Michaelmas, it's flown by.

Since last we met I've been holding the fort while Eden's been away. That's meant that my projects largely have had to be paused - the Postgraduate Study Conference I was intending to hold at the end of 8th week has been moved to the start of next term, and the PGR Review survey has been pushed back as well.

English Faculty review & Department of Education review

I've actually spent most of my time in 6th and 7th weeks out of the office, sitting on the review panels for the English Faculty and the Department of Education. Each review lasts for 2 (very intensive) days, and there is an enormous amount of reading that goes with it to prepare - we look at pretty much every aspect of the functioning of the department, from staff retention to curriculum to funding streams. I took on the English Faculty review a bit last-minute, so that wiped out 6th week for me. But it was an incredibly productive process - it was great to meet so many students who had a lot to say, and the

review panel was very dynamic and keen to probe into the Faculty's way of doing things. I'm writing this halfway through the review of the Department of Education, which is so different to English - it's been amazing to get an insight into the lives of PGCE students in particular. We met a group of students on the part-time/distance learning Masters course, and hearing their comments (particularly about their relationship to colleges) has really reinforced to me that this is an area in which the University should be doing so much more - I'm going to park that one until next term. Doing these reviews has been exhausting, but it's been brilliant to see how seriously student reps are taken and to be part of that scrutiny process on your behalf.

Digital Education and IT

Lots of my committee work and meetings since 5th week have been focused on IT and digital education. As you may have heard, the University has announced that they will be running their first ever Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) next term - I've been on the advisory group for that, it's pretty exciting! I'm also on the project group for the IT system that will replace GSS (the graduate supervision system, essentially a reporting mechanism for grads and their supervisors). I'm pleased to say that all our discussions so far have been very productive and I have high hopes for this new system - and we can finally wave goodbye to the horror that is GSS.

Educational quality

At the end of 5th week I attended Education Committee, the battleground of quality assurance, and fought our corner on HEFCE's new Annual Provider Review process (essentially, changing the quality assessment process from being externally-conducted to a reporting system signed off internally) to make sure the student voice is captured, and got a commitment from the University to include us substantively - we'll have meetings in Hilary to formalise this. This is separate to TEF, which we also discussed, and which has still been at the front of our minds (as you'll see from one of the motions this evening).

Grad Accommodation & Admissions

There is **so** much exciting work going on here! We're making leaps and strides in speeding up the admissions process (so it won't take you months to hear if you have a place, funding, and a college offer), and the Graduate Accommodation strategy is coming on apace, it's being fleshed out and being endorsed across the University and colleges. I'm doing some more work on this in the next week or two.

Grad Representation

Consider this your last call for graduate Divisional Board reps - applications close on Friday! We've got a Grad Common Room Presidents' Committee (Grad PresCom) on Tuesday this week (in the future for me, in the past for you), and I'm hoping to have some good discussions there. I'm also going to devote some time at the very end of this term to thinking strategically about the new exec, and how we can ensure grads don't get lost. Suggestions on a postcard please!

OUSU governance, yay!

Spent all of Friday of 6th week at the OUSU Trustee Board Away Day. It was great. We did a lot of thinking about how OUSU does and should operate, and how to be better looking forwards. It threw up a lot of questions, particularly around our campaign structure and the role of student trustees, and I expect I'll pick this up at some point.

SO, looking ahead to the end of term and the start of Hilary, I will be working on:

-- finalising the PGR Survey

- graduates and representation and the new exec committee
- planning my event on DPhil study
- suspension of graduate students
- appointing grad Div Reps, woo!
- TEF / the HER Bill (it never goes away, does it)

See you soon, enjoy your holidays! I'll be in Oxford til at least 20th December, so if you need anything (within reason) feel free to drop me a line - vpgraduates@ousu.ox.ac.uk. Winter is coming - look busy.

Til we meet again,
Marina

Sandy Downs – Vice-President (Welfare & Equal Opportunities)

Hi everyone!

As usual, I've been busy in various committees and meetings over the last couple of weeks. Unusually we also did the national demo, which was super successful and will hopefully have a good impact on government policy! I'm also no longer particularly ill, which is a real treat.

I've been working really hard on brainstorming the new reporting system, including organising a really productive meeting with some of the campaign and community chairs and the University Equality and Diversity Unit. Thanks to those that came along, hopefully there will be more in due course!

The common room specific welfare reports are being finalised now, and will be out by the end of term hopefully. I am eternally grateful to the OUSU staff who've been working their socks off to make this happen.

I went to the first race equality working group, which is working towards getting the University accredited onto the Race Equality Charter Mark.

We had an OUSU trustee board away day, which okayed lots of confidential plans and was a good opportunity to chat about the future strategy of OUSU as an organisation.

We held the student-led mental health forum which focused on the mental health policy review. I'll be doing further consultation with student groups on this in due course, especially with the new Mind Your Head committee!

Lastly we're working on a Preventing Prevent video – look out for it emerging early next term!

Thanks! Sandy ☺

Orla White – Vice-President (Women)

Hi Council!

I've had a packed past two weeks, what with the National Demo, the demand for First Respondent Training and term ticking to its end. As ever, if you want to get in touch, you can reach me at vpwomen@ousu.ox.ac.uk. Here's what I've been up to:

- I attended the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Students, which was discussing the UUK report and university harassment policies. It was really helpful and informative, and gave me a lot of things to consider when coming up with a strategy to work with the university on complying with the new recommendations. As ever, if you want to know more or get involved with this project, let me know!
- I've been running First Respondent Training sessions in multiple colleges. I'm not currently organising any new ones for this term, but if you want to organise anything for next term then get in touch.
- By the time this report gets read (I'm writing it in advance), I will have had the first preliminary meeting with University admin on how the UUK report might impact harassment policy at Oxford. Hopefully it went well. Either way I know your support for my motion last time round will have strengthened my position – thank you!
- I had a really productive meeting with a representative of the Oxford Rape and Sexual Assault Crisis Centre about links between the University, OUSU and OSARCC.
- I have drafted a quick, anonymous and very informal survey seeking thoughts from student sex workers about training for staff and other initiatives to improve welfare.
- I went to the Demo on November 19th – thank you to everyone who came!
- WomCam put on their club night, and have also elected a new committee – check their Facebook page for more details!
- It Happens Here are planning a vigil for the elimination of violence against women on Friday 25th, with a placard-making session the day before. Check their Facebook page for the details.

Part Time Executive Officers

Tom Wadsworth - Academic Affairs Campaigns Officer

This is the last report I will ever send as Academic Affairs Officer. Therefore I'll give a very brief summary of everything I have done in the last year. First of all I have engaged with the academic affairs reps from each of the undergraduate common rooms. In HT and TT I went along to all their meetings at OUSU and tried to see where I could be helpful within each of the JCRs. On top of this I have been involved in SusCam since its founding by the fantastic Kathryn Cole. Within SusCam I have helped out generally and am one of the general committee members on their exec as a result. I have enjoyed all the meetings I had with both the past and present VP for Access and Academic Affairs and hope to continue engaging in this work following the response to the HE Bill and the National Demo on Saturday.

Adam Kellett – Access and Admissions Officer

We have a couple of access rep forums to top off the term, gearing up to interviews and providing general support as well as a chance for access reps to meet up and discuss experiences. As well as all this, we're in the middle of electing the new Target Schools committee, which keen readers are heavily encouraged to get involved with. With that, we're setting up how the campaign will work in the Part Time Executive-less future.

Bo Zhang - Graduate Academic Affairs Officer

I have been working with VP Grad on brainstorming and compiling a survey for graduate research students. The survey is expected to reflect on students satisfaction and concerns with university/department-level support with personal development, research progress, course quality, welfare support, financial constraints and stress management. The survey is expected to be rolled out by the end of the term.

Connor Broyles – Graduate International Students' Officer

I've just been doing a little asking around as to what types of things people would like to be doing and waiting for the meeting with graduate common room folks to bring up my Christmas break thing for the international students. Actually, I was thinking it might be easiest to just get an email list for graduate international students, or all graduate students, and take a poll (google doc) for which are actually hanging around for the break and who is willing to meet up with other "strangers" and do things.

Campaigns

Good Night Out

This term, Good Night Out officially became an OUSU campaign. The Committee has been adjusting to what this means for their roles and continuing to try and get Oxford nightclubs to be trained and become GNO affiliated! Due to some slow progress and a lack of interest from many of the clubs, we are extending our focus to try and train students who run student nights in Oxford. We will be adjusting the training guides and training session over the Christmas vac to make it appropriate for students who run student nights, with a view to getting some of this training going in Hilary term. We suspect that students will be more responsive and keen to be involved with the campaign than many of the nightclubs. This is not to derail or undermine our focus which is still primarily with nightclub staff, but whilst progress is slow then it seems a good use of time to build up traction in other areas and hopefully generate more pressure. It has been a productive term for GNO and we are excited to keep going and get training into action come Hilary!!

On Your Doorstep

At Fresher's Fair this term, we teamed up with Oxford Homeless Action Group (based in The Hub) to make joint flyers with information about both our groups on a double-sided flier. We signed up roughly 254 new students to our campaign email at the Fresher's Fair, and currently have 905 members. We also advertised the Oxfordshire Big Sleepout to visitors of our stand, and spread information about this event to the other student homelessness groups so that we could get as many students as possible involved.

The first campaign project of term was the Homelessness Reduction Bill. This was a Private Member's bill proposed in Parliament which, if passed, would mean that all homeless people would need to be considered a 'priority need' in terms of whether or not they received any support from local councils, as currently only roughly 50% of people get support from councils when they report themselves as homeless. A campaign member, Jeevan Ravindran (who is now the new Chair), organised a meeting with Andrew Smith MP for Friday, October 21, about the bill. Myself and Jeevan turned up to the meeting where we discussed the implications for the bill and Andrew's support for it along with a delegation of four people from Crisis Skylight Oxford. We also decided to write hand-written letters to Sajid Javid MP, Cabinet Minister for Communities and Local Government, asking him to make the government give its full support to the Bill. Within a few days of sending the letter, we heard that Sajid Javid had just announced the government would be backing the bill, although obviously we can only speculate how much this related to the letters we had sent.

Homelessness Awareness Week happened in 3rd week, and we organised several events for the week including the screening of 'Not Just Homeless' on the Monday and Tuesday, 'The Ins and Outs of Homelessness: Discussion Evening' on the Wednesday evening, a panel discussion on the 'History of Homelessness' on the Thursday evening, and then we organised to go down to the Oxfordshire Big Sleepout on the Friday evening with all the students who had signed up. In terms of the running of the events, they all went to plan and ran smoothly. Unfortunately, despite a good social media campaign, most of the events were relatively poorly attended. The 'History of Homelessness' event had the most people, with roughly 20 people coming, and around seven students came to the Big Sleepout, but the other events had only 4 to 5 people roughly attending who weren't speakers or organisers. Due to this, we have decided that next year, we need to try and partner with the other student homelessness groups in organising Homeless Awareness Week to try and get more groups involved, and hopefully more people coming to events as a result.

Towards the end of the term, we as a campaign are trying to boost our member numbers. Only two people who were uninvolved last year in the campaign have been regularly attending our campaign meetings, and we've also lost a couple members from last year, with more set to go after this term. Because of this, we are organising a 'Meet and Greet' with free pizza for this Monday in a bid to boost numbers. We are also trying to persuade students involved with homeless outreach to consider also getting involved in homelessness campaigning. So far 18 people have said they will be going on the FB event, while 100+ people have said they're 'interested'. Moreover, as a chair, I have decided to make greater use out of our weekly emails by including information about various ways students can help those who are homeless and make a difference by advertising such things as buying the album 'Homeless Man', written by Neo, a local homeless musician who directs all money raised from the album to the 'Oxford Homeless Project'.

Throughout this term, our subsidiary campaign, 'Streets of Oxford', who go out and anonymously interview homeless individuals and then post their stories on Facebook and Instagram, have been carrying on their work, with two new stories going out already this term and another one or two more

to come out later this term. The FB group has been 'liked' by 316 people, a figure that has been steadily rising, and the last post reached 992 people on FB.

We held our annual elections in our last meeting, and we have elected Jeevan Ravindran as our new Chair, and Charlotte Anstey as Social Media Secretary. Anna Seccombe will carry on with her role as Treasury from last year until we either find someone willing to join the campaign and take on the role, or we will split the role between Jeevan and Charlotte.

Suspended Students Campaign

SusCam has been progressing well this term. We ran our termly Welcome Back social at the start of 1st week, and Drop In Session in conjunction with the Student Advice Service in 5th Week. We will also be holding our first birthday party next week, as a celebration for all who have put time and effort into making SusCam a success over the past year.

We formally elected an interim committee to run SusCam for the next term, until we hold our elections at the end of Hilary. A massive thank you to all those who ran, and congratulations to those elected.

On the policy side of things, we've been working with the Sabbatical team to propose a new working paper to go to Senior Tutors Council next term, and we're putting in plans to extend our campaigning to a collegiate level, so will be in touch with relevant JCR committee members in the near future.

Our information booklet is also close to completion, with final additions being made by the committee over the coming weeks before it is fact checked by relevant departments within the University. We hope that this will be in production by Hilary.

Any questions, feel free to email suscam@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

Target Schools

There has been a positive amount of change at Target Schools since our Trinity Term reports. Over the vacation Adam and I have overseen the transformation of our safeguarding procedures in order carrying out good practise in as many areas as possible. This has included use of new risk assessments, developing our understanding of where undergraduates are throughout the mornings of our shadowing days and development of comprehensive undergraduate training. Due to the volume of work this has created, as a committee we have opened up a new role of *Safeguarding Officer* for the next academic year. This should ensure that the procedures put into place are continued to be complied with over 2017.

Additionally, last week saw the election of Maya Tikly-Young and Holly Kilner (both Hertford College) as the campaigns new co-chairs. They both have a wealth of experience with Target Schools. Adam and I are certain they will have a very successful year when they take over from December. The elections for the other executive positions are currently on-going.

In terms of delivery of the campaign, since Trinity we have been very busy. September 2016 hosted Target Schools Roadshows across the UK, visiting schools in Hull, South Yorkshire and Kent. Over the summer we saw over 1,250 students, delivering a range of content from aspirational sessions for

youngsters between the ages of 11-14 and more Oxford orientated presentations for those between the ages of 14-18. Target Schools would like to go on the record to thank St Hugh's College JCR and the St Hugh's College College Office for their financial support of the presentations in Kent. Otherwise, a great amount of thanks is owed to Beth Pickford at Brasenose College. Beth delivered the Roadshow in South Yorkshire to an excellent standard.

Michaelmas has also been packed with shadowing days. Unfortunately, one of the set backs from more advanced safeguarding procedure has been the scaling back of shadowing days in order to ensure we have the undergraduate coverage for each subject. However, we have still welcomed 80 young people to Oxford this term and the shadowing days have seen a better degree of organisation. Every cloud has a silver lining, right?

Finally, Adam and I would like to thank OUSU for the support we have received during our time as the co-chairs. We hope that the relationship that was in place has helped hundred of young people make the decision to apply to Oxford, breaking down the barriers and misconceptions about the University in the process.

Best wishes,

Benjamin Peacock