

Reports to Council

Termly Council TT12

Martha Mackenzie

President

Dear All,

Thank you all for a brilliant year, it has been fantastic getting to know so many of you and incredibly rewarding working as a team on so many projects. Thanks to the numerous among you that have given your time and energy to OUSU this year.

I have put together a summary of some of my key activities over the course of the year. Have an excellent summer and good luck in the future!

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Teaching Awards

In Michaelmas Term Hannah and I bid for funding from the NUS and the Higher Education Academy to start up Student-Lead Teaching Awards. Our bid was successful and the University soon got on board and agreed to back the awards as the only student-led awards. We put a lot of energy into design and publicity, using videos, creating a stand alone website, distributing posters and flyers, and touring the common rooms of Oxford. Nominations were open for a couple of months and in total we received 330 with over 400 students contributing. A student panel selected the shortlisted candidates and winners in 4th Week and their names were announced in 6th Week. The quality of the nominations was phenomenal and there is a huge amount of material for OUSU to work with. The awards were extremely rewarding and I believe students genuinely appreciated the opportunity to take part.

Early Release Campaign

Things initially progressed fairly rapidly with the Early Release Campaign (a campaign to stop the letting agents of Oxford releasing their properties before the Christmas break) but have recently plateaued slightly. After the petition secured over 1700 hundred signatures I was able to speak to most of the Letting Agencies individually and they held a 'summit' on March 14th, agreeing in principle but asking for more concessions. The local MP Andrew Smith wrote to the Letting Agencies expressing his support for the campaign and the local media has also pushed some very helpful articles.

The City Council has agreed to incorporate the 'ask' into their accreditation scheme and offer financial incentives for any agencies that comply with our request. Brookes SU and OUSU have now pledged to support and contribute to the council accreditation scheme in order to raise its standing and then use it as an active guide for advising students who live in the private rented sector. The University and the Colleges are also all on board with the campaign.

A final meeting is taking place next Thursday, to see if we can secure an agreement once and for all! OUSU will also be making Housing and Living Out support a priority for the Student Advice Service, becoming a proper hub for these issues.

Student Advisory Group

I have been working with members of the Student Systems Programme to organise a Student Advisory Group to inform the updates to Oxford Student Systems and to react and comment on the Oxford Digital Experience. Sixteen graduates and undergraduates sit on this group and we have been meeting two-three times a term. The SAG has been a great success with the students contributing regularly (and actively shaming the University into more responsive IT systems). Based on feedback I wrote a paper, which was presented to Education Committee last week, document the student digital experience and calling for improvements. This particularly noted the lack of any support for Oxford Talks. The SAG will continue next year.

University Accommodation Office

Head Residents Scheme: Jim and I had our first altercation with the University Accommodation Office (where central graduate accommodation is managed) over the summer. It was brought to our attention that the Office had inserted a new clause into their tenancy agreement preventing overnight guests, ever. With the help of a student at Linacre and their MCR President we were able to reverse this decision and oversee the creation of a Head Residents Scheme.

Graduate Rent: After our initial dealings it became clear that the Office were going to be extremely difficult to deal with. Despite prior agreement Jim and I were given very little warning that rents and charges negotiations were being brought forward. We were forced to act quickly but managed to secure a below-inflation rent increase, forcing the Office to acknowledge that their accommodation is often too expensive and that the income of graduate students is currently severely restricted.

Representation on the Property Management Sub-committee: After a year of extensive lobbying Jim and I negotiated full representation on the committee that has oversight of the Office. The incoming Vice-President (Graduates) Chris Gray will be sitting on this committee next year and should now be able to properly influence accommodation policy.

Looking Ahead: It is clear that a lot of work still needs to be done in this area. Currently the Office lacks any clear policy and the complaints from graduate students are still rolling in thick and fast. The University needs to think seriously about working with the Office on the issue of International Student priority and resolving some of these issues of quality. Hopefully committee representation will allow OUSU to really push these issues.

Careers Service

Oxford Guide to Careers: Working with the Careers Service to produce a student-led careers guide that OUSU could finally be proud of was a key manifesto point of mine. I am really happy that we have been able to see this through. The design has now been finalised and the content is being written as we speak. The Guide should generate around forty thousand pounds for OUSU and has opened many doors for us with Careers.

Training: along with Jacob Diggle and Adrian Lo, my two Clubs and Societies Support Officers, we have been working with the Careers Service to deliver training sessions for Clubs and Societies. There should be many more of these sessions coming up ahead.

Access and Outreach: In Hilary Term I piloted a scheme with Target Schools to bring the Oxford Student Consultancy into a local school- with students acting as the mentors for the pupils. The pilot worked well and we are hoping to expand it local state schools.

Looking Ahead: When we came into office relations with the Careers Service were extremely fraught. Working with them this year has been great for OUSU and great for students as we have been able to pool resources. I sincerely hope relations continue to be strengthened next year.

NUS

‘Come Clean’ Lobby: In April, as part of a national NUS campaign, I took ten students down to lobby Oxford MPs Andrew Smith and Nicola Blackwood. They were both extremely responsive and have agreed to take up our issues on student visas, graduate funding, and access to Higher Education.

NUS National Conference: The conference was on the whole fairly successful. OUSU’s motions on exploring loan weighting beyond London and on supporting offender learning were both passed. The amendment to the condemnation of violent police tactics was narrowly defeated (one vote would have swung it), with delegate Sean Robinson taking conference to the closest count of the week. The motion

on releasing members data was passed at the National Executive Council as the time ran out during conference. It was great to see OUSU so involved, this should certainly continue and expand next year.

National Conference Motion Number 307: As mentioned previously an 'anti-Oxbridge' motion was headed to NUS NEC for debate after it was not discussed at National Conference. Gerard, the President of CUSU, and I spent a long time lobbying the NEC over the removal of the offending parts and in the end they were successfully defeated on Monday. Many members of the NEC were incredibly responsive and very happy to help once we were able to reach them and I think the lobbying effort definitely helped raise our profile.

Clubs and Societies

Taking Control: We have made some progress in taking responsibility for Clubs and Societies- although not as much as I would have liked. The University is on board and the Proctors' are almost on-board but this plan is contingent on funding. Should our funding protestations be successful then this should happen relatively easily but unfortunately our next steps are controlled by this variable.

Training and Support: Adrian Lo has been doing a lot of good work in training and supporting clubs and societies through the registration process. He has also been working with the Alumni and Development Office to see if he can help clubs and societies with sponsorship and fundraising.

Committees

This year I have sat on the following University Committees: University Council, General Purposes Committee, Building and Estates Sub-committee, Development Committee, Sub-committee for the Careers Service, Joint Sub-committee (Education Committee) Student Members, and the Student Systems Project Board. **I have sat on the following OUSU Committees:** Trustee Board (Chair), Finance Committee, Budget Committee, Internal Affairs Committee, and Steering Committee.

Conference of Colleges: For the first time we have also had representation on Conference of Colleges (the committees of all the colleges), for me this has been on Domestic Bursars' Committee, Estates Bursars' Committee, and Conference of Colleges itself. I think this has been an excellent development and has allowed us to build links with Colleges Officers and Heads of House that have successfully boosted the profile of OUSU and allowed us to work together on areas of student interest.

Strategic Plan: I have also been sitting on the committee that oversees the creation of the University's new strategic plan. While these meetings have only just begun I think they are incredibly important and OUSU and the students will need to have a strong voice going forward. It is important that a proper academic strategy is set and that the reality of £9000 fees, and students expectations, are taken into account.

Common Room Support

Common room support has been one of the most time consuming, and certainly the most rewarding, aspects of my term. I have held a number of training sessions and have put time and effort into visiting tens of common rooms and meeting 1-2-1 with all JCR Presidents, most MCR Presidents, and a lot of OUSU Presidents. OUSU has deliberately tried to focus on common room support this year, ensuring that we are there when you need us on issues of local representation. I have really enjoyed attending OUSU Rep Com over the last couple of terms and huge credit to James Raynor, OUSU's Common Room Support Officer, for making it such a success.

Rent has been a big feature and I have worked closely with David Butler, our Rent and Accommodation Officer, and Jim O'Connell to deliver numerous training and information sessions and work individually with college rent teams.

I have been delighted to build relationships with so many of you and it has been a real pleasure working with you and getting to know you this year. Thank you!

OUSU Funding

As I have mentioned to you frequently, in Hilary Term OUSU made a request to the University for extra funding and this request was turned down. I have written a letter to the University in response to this

decision, questioning their reasoning. OUSU Council, MCR PresCom, and a number of JCR Presidents have agreed to sign and support this letter. I will be circulating the final draft to Council before the end of the week. OUSU remains rather dangerously underfunded and we will struggle to become the student union that you deserve without some extra investment that can be channelled straight into student support and services.

I must thank Budget Committee, who have put a huge amount of work into getting us into a position where we can fight back and it has been really great working through these issues with the committee.

OUSU Governance

OUSU Bye-Laws: After 18 months have finally passed!

OUSU Election Regulations: After numerous late nights and weekends are on their way to being passed!

Mission, Vision, and Values: Is in full swing... keep your eyes open for even more developments next term.

Looking Ahead: Still in need of a Complaints Procedure and General Regulations BUT we are nearly there. The Trustee Board has functioned very well again this term and we have appointed a new Financial Trustee, James Hunt. OUSU's road to professionalisation is increasingly well travelled.

Jim O'Connell	VP (Graduates)
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Last ever Council Report. I'm going to give a brief overview of how the year went for me, starting with a few highlights and areas which didn't go so well (optimistically titled 'future priorities'). Then follows a few paragraphs on ideology, and a few thanks.

Achievements

A lot has happened for graduates this year. In particular:

- A renewed focus on graduate funding that has pushed the University to produce useful mechanisms for closing the graduate funding gap. We also saw the Ertegun Scholarships announced this year, which was very pleasing.
- The PGR Provision Review, which gave the University its first large scale qualitative investigation into the PGR experience. I hope this will have an effect for years to come.
- Sponsoring the PhD Movie to be screened in Oxford, twice!
- Winning on feedback for Master's students.
- Negotiating the best possible rent deal for students in University Graduate Accommodation.
- Supporting MCRs to get some excellent rent deals.
- Pushing the University to (nearly, eventually...) adopt and promote the Oxford Talks system for listing speaker events.
- Consistently raising the issue of graduate teaching opportunities, to the point where it is being considered as a vital component of the University's strategy over the next five years.

All this has been possible not due to just my hard work, but that of the other sabbatical officers and the support and work of MCR Committees, Divisional Board reps, and others. This is only the stuff that I've been most involved in, and doesn't cover Athena SWAN, Mind Your Head, engaging with the Council, the Teaching Awards... and the countless other things OUSU has done this year to improve the lot of graduate students.

Future Priorities

My biggest regret is not getting further with graduate academic representation. We need to get to know and support department reps in their various forms in the same way we interact with MCR Presidents. We started the year with high hopes in this area - and we have done ok in some senses, working very well with MSD reps, with the English Graduate Organisation at times, and with the Materials GJCC. But we haven't got anything that's built to last yet. Setting up a proper representative structure for grads awaits further funding for OUSU from the University. But, we can still do what we can, and also take steps such as giving departmental reps voting rights at Council to encourage their attendance. Doing this for Divisional Board Reps was a good start, but we have to go further.

We have to continue pressing the University on funding and the quality of teaching and supervision. There remain far too many PGT courses in Oxford that students are not happy with. Part of this is due to mismatched expectations, but the University must also realise it cannot charge £10,000 for a course without giving students extensive written feedback on their work.

This ties into the danger of increasing postgraduate fees, which again we need to keep a better eye on in future.

Supervision as we know is a lottery. There is a lot that can be done to promote good practice and to make sure that there is less of a culture of stigma surrounding a supervisory relationship that goes wrong.

Finally, we must continue to watchful when it comes to graduate admissions decisions. So long as there are unfunded places, departments will be tempted to take students based on ability to pay and not on ability to succeed. This leads to bad consequences for all involved.

Ideology

I believe there are two paths facing the University in its relationship with students. Down one route is consumerism and down the other is partnership. Needless to say, I support the latter route.

Consumerism in Oxford has grown up over the past decade alongside government changes to undergraduate fees, but also as a result of the practice of devising Master's degrees to sell. Treating students as consumers suits Oxford superficially - thanks to our reputation, there is far greater demand for our courses than there is supply, so Departments can run courses cheaply in order to make money. With £9000 undergraduate fees, the temptation will be to replicate what has happened with Master's courses in that realm too. Some Departments also display a worrying tendency to take DPhil students' (large) fees when they are not equipped to give them supervision that meets the student's interest.

If financial considerations override academic considerations in the treatment of students, and if the University does not work with students to improve provision but rather abdicates this responsibility to market forces, the result will be avowedly Consumerist students. Student representation in this scenario will become avowedly consumerist also. OUSU's Student Advice Service will become a No-win No-fee lawsuit outfit, and the role of the Sabs will be to maintain Naming and Shaming websites, where the weakest courses and most venal supervisors will be subject to comment along the lines of those on ratemyteacher.com or Trip Advisor. Comments like 's/he spends too much time on research and not enough time on teaching us!' will be commonplace.

The University doesn't (or shouldn't!) want this, and thankfully there is an alternative. The University has committed in word to a partnership with its students. This partnership should exist at all levels from University, Departmental and College governance to the level of individual student/tutor relationship. This partnership needs to be explicitly founded on a commitment to prioritising our shared *academic* values: namely excellence, based on the idea that talent is not confined solely to those who can afford fees. In this world, OUSU has a vital role to play in representation and negotiation, and in supporting student representatives and individual students to succeed. This world is also one where students are placed in contact with and are able to appreciate the overriding importance of research to the University.

This, I think, is where both students and the majority of academics and administrators would like our relationship to be located. However, committing to this vision has consequences. Just as many colleges have now moved to embracing student representation in their governance structures, so too must departments. OUSU needs to be resourced properly so that we can give both college and departmental reps the training and support necessary for them to be as effective voices as they can be. We also need to be able to provide students with the soft skills needed to get the best from their supervisors and tutors.

A final word on ideology - the latter scenario, which is far more in keeping with Oxford's centuries old ethos of academic democracy - is only possible if Oxford remains a public University. The government's encouragement of private HE provision alongside the temptation of reduced regulation may encourage

some in the University to think that going private is a way to preserve what is good about Oxford in straitened times. Those espousing an 'America is always best' attitude may well be sympathetic to this also. However, charging unlimited fees to all students, even with generous bursary support has two flaws that stand to feed one another. First, any system of means tested student support will leave a 'squeezed middle' of families who lose out. These will be professional middle class families (dare I say it, families such as those where the principal breadwinner is an Oxford don...) who will provide both great resistance, and hugely demanding expectations if their children do come here. The second flaw is that, bursaries notwithstanding, all students will develop huge expectations in response to unlimited fees. It is difficult to see how the University can deal with these without giving way to a consumerist culture.

Thanks

I've had a great time at OUSU, not only this year but throughout my time in Oxford. My biggest thanks have to go to my girlfriend and best advisor, Sarah. I've had a great experience working with Martha, Hannah, Seb, Dan and Yuan this year - could not have asked for a better team! It's been awesome. We're also very lucky to be able to work with dedicated and under appreciated permanent staff - particularly Karen who is awesome.

I've been lucky enough to work with some great MCR Presidents. I'm going to single out James and Tristen, as chairs of Prescom, who have been great. Also Rob, who as President of a CR that traditionally has been wary of OUSU, has not only worked with us to bridge an old divide, but has also contributed significantly to the workings of OUSU. Thanks also to a fantastic set of Exec Members and Divisional Board reps - I'm sorry I haven't been able to do more with you.

I'm resisting the urge to turn this into one of those Union termcard thanks pages. However I will just add a thanks to a few others of the multi-year political clique that has ran OUSU over the past few years - Jonny, Stefan, Chris, Katharine, David, Alex, Tom, Katy, Jack. And to my fantastic election agent Pete Morcos, who was never in the clique but did give us lots to laugh about. And finally to the various Returning Officers who have been far too kind to me (even if they didn't realise it at the time!) - Madeline, Ollie and Jonathan.

Next year should be a great one for grads with David, Chris and Suzanne on the sabb team. They'll do a superb job and are really well placed to build on what we've done this year.

Was going to close with a snide LBJ quote but I thought that would be inappropriate, so here's Gordon Brown talking to Citizens UK on mayday 2010:

'Nobody is a spectator - the people in the crowd, the people whose names are not recorded in the books of history, are the real change makers- the people who make history by being there and demanding change. That is you.' - Gordon Brown

Sebastian Baird

VP (Welfare & Equal Opportunities)

Dear Council,

Alas, it is the end. Here is what I've been up to this term.

Mental Health

- Organised and executed the first ever Mind Your Head Week, which reached more than 250 people, both students and members of the broader community. Included speaker events, a film screening and meditation/sleep workshops.
- Continued to bring the Mind Your Head Campaign to more common rooms across the University, delivering events in 6 common rooms this term.
- Organised a nationally accredited mental health first aid training course for eighteen welfare officers and junior deans.
- Continue to develop the resources of the Mind Your Head Campaign - we have been chosen as the Michaelmas charity for both Keble MCR and Queen's JCR, meaning that the Campaign's budget for the next academic year is six times the size it would otherwise have been.

- I drafted an article on the Mind Your Head Campaign for the Association of University and College Counsellors Journal, to be published in September.
- I've also been planning a training workshop for a Time to Change masterclass which I will be delivering in 10th Week.

Disabilities

- Sourced £750 funding for the Students With Disabilities, which will be devised, written and printed over the summer vacation.
- Continuing to work on the SWD peer mentoring scheme with Pete Quinn at the DAS and Anne Ford, the co-ordinator of Peer Support. This is going quite slowly, but should hopefully be able to make some substantive progress by the time the term ends properly.

Other equality matters

- Have organised a “managing diversity in your common room” session for common room officers, delivered with Leyla Okhai from the Equality and Diversity Unit.
- Haver continued to work on the Muslim Prayer Space campaign with representatives from the Islamic Society - the working group has picked an appropriate space and is drawing up proposals to go to the relevant University committees. We are hoping to get something in place for next term!

Graduate Welfare

- Have developed a project to deliver workshops to graduate research students on managing the relationship with their supervisor. This project is being devised jointly with Ingrid Lunt at the Department of Education, who has been running such sessions in her own department for a number of years. Hopefully we will be able to deliver these sessions directly to students next year.

Student Advice Service

- I have continued to carry out my role as manager of the Student Advice Service, organising debriefs and overseeing the caseload.
- I've also been re-writing the Service's policies and procedures to continue to make the service more professional - hope

Hannah Cusworth	VP (Access & Academic Affairs)
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Hiya Termly Council,

This is sadly the last time we'll meet. Like I did in Hilary Term I've used my manifesto headings to give you an idea of what I've achieved, but this time instead of just focusing on this last term, I've done a round up of the whole year. Looking back it's been a pretty good year. I've been very lucky to work with such brilliant people- Martha, Jim, Seb, Dan, Yuan, Emily, Nick, Harriet, Simran and the OUSU staff. A big thank you to all of them, it would have been impossible to get what I've done without them. It's also been great to know that I'm handing over to someone as good as David Messling, who I wish all the best for next year. I'm off to Teach First but if you ever need anything next year I'll be on hannah.cusworth@teachfirst.org.uk. As ever, any questions say now or email me on access@ousu.org.

Sustainable and Fairer Funding

Sustainable funding- I worked on the OUSU response to the Government's Higher Education White Paper *Students at the Heart of the System* over the long vacation and then submitted and OUSU response to the technical consultation. On a local level I've engaged with the university's plan to make Oxford more financially sustainable by generating an annual surplus, this isn't something the university has traditionally aimed for and could have big repercussions for students. We've also been working closely with the Development Office this year to involved students more in their work something I hope the next sabb team continue.

Fairer funding- Many of you will remember the motion I brought to 1st week Council about student involvement in allocating the new £9000 fee. It was agreed by both the University and the Colleges that there was a legitimate student interest in this matter so I've now been added to the group and the first meeting I'll attend is on Friday.

Review of student support package- this year the university decided to roll over it's OFFA agreement and so the same student support package (bursaries and fee waivers) will apply for the 2013 intake as those who matriculate in 2013. During Michaelmas term we spoke strongly in favour of this since we had

no firm evidence about how well the package was achieving its aims of widening access. It's been agreed however that there will be a thorough review of student support in Michaelmas 2012 so it's likely that gloves are going to come off and next year's sabb team will have to dedicate much of Michaelmas lobbying to get the best deal for students.

Taking Access Seriously and Smarter Access Work

How serious disadvantage is- this has been one of the biggest messages I've been pushing this year. After teaching and observing in schools across London as well as being a JACARI tutor for the past 4 years it's really clear to me that social and education disadvantage runs deep. It's not something that can be ameliorated by an Alternative Prospectus or, in many cases, by UNIQ. I think the University probably does recognise this but they are incredibly reluctant to do anything about it, either because they don't think it's their place, or for fear of overstepping the mark. My view is that if we want to make our intake more socially diverse, we need to make our access work much more targeted, sustained, it needs to begin earlier and be in partnership with schools and government. I think our lobbying on Bridging and Foundation Provision (after a motion was passed in OUSU Council in 1st Week HT) made our position clear altered the view of some in the University, even though ultimately the reports recommendations were not approved.

Access Fair- the Access Fair which took place in Hilary Term was a brilliant success. There was standing room only in the Exam Schools for the panel of speakers and it was great to see colleges, student groups and departments learning from each other and taking back ideas. It got great feedback from both the University and the college access officers. A big thank you has to go to Harriet for her determination to see the event come to fruition.

Shadowing Scheme- I wasn't able to expand this year's shadowing scheme to include a residential element so that students from further afield were able to come, which is a real shame. This is for two main reasons- firstly this year's committee felt it was more important to focus on running the existing scheme really well this year before making changes and the Head of Student Recruitment, who is the person in the university we work with on the Shadowing Scheme, left in September.

BME Access Scheme and Clubs and Societies pilot- I've been working with Chidi, OUSU's BME officer, and Emily, OUSU's access officer, to get some targeted student led access schemes off the ground. The first aims to improve the numbers of successful applications that black students make by getting current Oxford students, who are from an ethnic minority themselves, to bust myths and talk about their own experiences and by encouraging black students to consider all subject options, including ones that are less competitive. The second aims to make college access days a great experience by getting clubs and societies involved; their workshops will be enjoyable, show potential students another side to Oxford and that you don't have to do a vocational degree to get brilliant skills and a brilliant job at the end of it and involve more students in access work.

Leading Through Listening

SAS casework- casework and the issues that come out of it have formed the basis of so much of the policy I've worked on these year- complaints and appeals and intermission/suspension/self-rustication are the biggest examples of this.

Undergraduate Teaching Review- this has underpinned the stances we've been taking throughout the year.

Feedback and Collections- feedback is what the University scores the lowest mark on the National Student Survey on. However, the University is relatively apathetic at doing anything bold about it at Undergraduate level. After listening to JCR officers about what their priorities on feedback were, it became clear that collections were top of the list. This year I've worked with Senior Tutors committee to raise the profile of collections and for colleges to consider implementing a deadline of 4th for all collections to be returned marked. I know colleges have taken action at a local level and this is in many ways thanks to the JCR officers I've worked with.

Making Students Heard- we have been brilliant at this.

Strengthening student representation at the undergraduate and graduate level- Jim and I made this a priority over the summer vac and in Michaelmas Term. It quickly became clear that if we wanted to do it properly we needed more support. Since then I've been working on

Medical Sciences Review- I led on making sure the student voice was heard in the recent Review of Medical Sciences. Jim and I supported departmental reps within Medical Sciences to canvas the views of their constituents and then worked with the university to ensure these views were fed in.

Departmental Reviews- this term there has been a pilot of including students on departmental review panels. I'm quite certain this wouldn't have happened if the quality of the sabbatical officers wasn't as high as it has been over the past few years and if the PVC Education didn't trust me and Jim as much as she does. We have submitted a response to the consultation and so hopefully in 8th week the pilot will be deemed to have been a success by Education Committee.

Keeping Oxford World-Leading

Innovation to degrees- This is something I believe is vital and predict it will become more so. One of the two categories for the Oxford University Student Union Teaching Awards was Innovation in Teaching and we got some fantastic nominations, which contained incredible examples of innovation across all four Divisions. I hope next year's team are able to showcase this innovation and encourage other academics to take up some of the good ideas that are around.

University wide wi-fi- the University has identified this as a priority as students continually state that it's one of their biggest IT priorities. Education Committee (where the VP Access and Academic Affairs and VP Grads are members) will now be taking a more active role in IT strategy and this will be a chance to make sure students' priorities are turned into realities.

Support From The Start

This is something that I've tangentially been working on all year, but regretfully haven't had the time to devote as much attention as I'd like. The University's new strategic plan now includes a reference to doing more research on the induction of undergraduates and PGT students and a commitment to providing the support students need to flourish at Oxford. I've dedicated quite a bit of time over the past term to shaping the University's education strategy so it includes strong commitments to improving the student experience.

Stronger Common Rooms

I've delivered 4 training sessions for Access Reps and 4 Academic Affairs training sessions for Presidents and Academic Affairs officers; topics have included working with college, Academic Affairs- the lowdown, Access- the lowdown with the Director of Undergraduate Admissions, setting up Student Ambassador Schemes with Univ's Anne-Marie Canning and several Academic Feedback Session workshops and training sessions. Alongside this I've met with over 3/4s of all the reps along with numerous Presidents.

I've been really proud of the Common Room support I've provided this year, especially for Access Officers. I know the relationships we've built up, the training and support we've provided have made both OUSU and JCR stronger.

Daniel Stone

VP (Charities & Community)

Dear Council,

I can't believe that I'm about to give my final report to Council, but time flies when you're having fun! I'll aim to give a brief summary of the past fortnight, the past term and the past year.

But I'd like to start by giving a quick word of thanks to all the OUSU Staff Members, the OUSU Exec (especially Beth and Oliver who have been amazing), my wonderful committees (RAG, E&E and the Living Wage Campaign) and most of all the other Sabbatical Officers who have made this year both productive and enjoyable. Thanks ☺

Community

I began this year with the intention of devising an effective way of engaging with members of the local community and establishing a clear rationale for why we, as the Student Union choose to do it. I feel that I have been able to achieve both by:

- Successfully launching the OUSU Student Community Warden Scheme. This week they took part in community events to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Over the next week I'll be documenting their impact in the hope of convincing the University to invest in the scheme permanently.
- Establishing the Oxford Student Community Partnership, which has met regularly throughout this year and is working towards a clear action plan.
- Continuing to attend and organise a series of Neighbourhood Action Groups, Area Forums and community meetings.
- Writing a Community Strategy for OUSU and lobbying for the University to employ a full time community liaison officer.
- Drafting a 'Welcome To...' guide for students living out (watch this space...)

Other 'community' highlights include the Safety Bus Review and the City Council Hustings

Charity

I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every moment of working with Oxford RAG and have to give my thanks to the RAG Executive for making the year so fun while raising loads-a-money! In Easter we gave £8000 each to our four chosen charities and are set for another bumper year.

- In the last fortnight we took in around £2200 at the Summer Vllls stall, £300 in the RAG dodgeball tournament, £250 in a Casino Night and around £400 from our weekly student bar night at No.9

Other things I've done under the banner of 'Charity' this year include:

- Working with Graduate Charity Reps to better support their ideas and to engage them with RAG
- Completing the Charity Days' Database with Karen
- Finalising the regulations and process governing the selection of RAG charities.

Environment and Ethics

Again I am indebted to another student committee (and Ben and Jerry's) for helping to make life taste that bit sweeter. As well as co-ordinating the Fifth Week Fair Trade Freeze, I have:

- Launched a citywide end of year recycling scheme in partnership with the Council and Oxford Brookes.
- Organised the inaugural Ethical Careers Day with the Careers Service and the Oxford Hub.
- Campaigned on College Environmental Sustainability Policies - I had to admit failure in getting formal policies adopted, but there was an incredibly productive workshop for Domestic Bursars in 6th week, which should lead to the dissemination and assimilation of best practice.
- Attended and contributed to every meeting of the Environment Panel, Sustainability Steering Group and Socially Responsible Investment Review Committee. The progress of the SRIRC in particular has been extremely encouraging.

Living Wage

And saving the best until last, the Living Wage Campaign committee has been awesome. It has been a rollercoaster year from the initial press coverage in the Oxford Student during freshers fair, to massive wins for the campaign in a number of Oxford Colleges.

In Michaelmas Term we organised quite visible and confrontational actions, while the highlight of Hilary Term was the Oxford Living Wage Forum in the Examination Schools. This term we've continued to negotiate with the University behind the scenes and I'm hopeful that there will be good news around the corner...

And my last word is to say thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve you during this year. It has been an incredible experience and I can walk away with pride knowing that I have done my utmost to work on your behalf. I now leave you in the capable hands of my successor, Sarah Santhosham, who will be GREAT! 😊

Peace out x

PART TIME OFFICERS

Oliver Gleeson

Community Outreach and Charities Officer

Hi Council,

I'm quite shocked and surprised we've got to the end of term already! Time flies!

I would like to use this last report to firstly thank a number of people who have worked tirelessly this year for OUSU and for Oxford in general and I would also like to try to summarise the things I have been involved in and achieved this term.

First, a massive massive thank you must go to Dan Stone for all his hard work this year for Charities and Community. Without his tireless dedication and hard-work, RAG would struggle immensely at getting things done and raising as much money as it does! I have had great fun working with Dan and I am sure that next term Sarah will be able to carry on the great work that Dan has done over the past year.

I also think it is important to thank the rest of the Sabbatical Team: Martha, Seb, Hannah, Yuan and Jim as well as the support staff (especially Karen!) who have all worked very hard this year and definitely deserve our gratitude.

This term has been a busy one for RAG. We started the term with Megaraid to Bath, raising almost £750 for the British Heart Foundation. This was followed by a Dodgeball tournament raising around £250 and a very very successful stall at Summer Eights that looks to have made around £1600! The last two totals will all be going to RAG's four elected charities, which are:

- Helen and Douglas House,
- Crisis Skylight Oxford,
- Jacari,
- and the Against Malaria Foundation.

These will be our charities until the end of Hilary 2013.

I have also worked on a Charity Reps Guide that will now be distributed to incoming Charity Reps at the start of Michaelmas Term. I have also begun supporting the City Council's new 'begging initiative' that will be starting over the summer and continuing into October. Work on how colleges raise money for charity is also in progress and I aim to look further into this over the long vacation. All that is left for me to say is have a great summer!

Oliver

Beth Hanson-Jones

Environment & Ethics Officer

This term we have been working on trying to get E&E Reps more involved, so we can provide them with the support that they need. If there are any questions about anything you are doing in your college, or you need any information on E&E issues then don't hesitate to get in touch. We will be holding another Swap Shop on Thursday of 8th week, between 10 and 2 at OxHub, bring any clothes you want to swap- its a great opportunity to update your summer wardrobe! The E&E Garden party is also this Sunday, e-mail me at eande@ousu.org for more information. As usual, any questions then drop me an e-mail on eande@ousu.org.

Nick Cooper

Academic Affairs Campaign Officer

Evening Council,

I hope everyone is well - for those of you who are sitting exams, best of luck; for those of you who have finished, congratulations!

A really busy fortnight with a pesky Masters degree has left less time than I would have liked for OUSU (sad times.) I have represented the student body in the University's Clubs Committee, and was on the Teaching Awards selection panel which was a wonderful experience. But the next fortnight will be back to business as usual: working on seeing where college complaints and appeals procedures can be taken into Michaelmas.

As it's the last Council of term, may I wish everyone a wonderful Long Vacation. Let's pray for good weather...

Nick

David Butler

Rent and Accommodation Officer

Evening Council,

As your Rent and Accommodation Officer, I have completed a number of tasks this term.

My main focus this term has been on providing support for common rooms in their rent negotiations. I held a rent surgery with Martha and Jim for common room presidents. I also provided one-to-one support for rent teams. A number of common rooms have had successful negotiations and I am glad to have been able to play a very minor part in their achievements.

In addition to my rent work, I have been focussing on welfare and students in the community. I am currently putting the finishing touches to the content for the new Living Out Guide (with the support of the VP Welfare and the Student Advisor). I contributed content to the 12/13 International Freshers Guide and the 12/13 Student Notebook. I have worked with the VP Charities and Communities to lay the groundwork for 'welcome to students' events in MT12. I also continue to represent students on the Student Community Partnership.

It has been a pleasure to work with such an amazing sabb team for the past two terms. I wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

James Raynor

Common Room Support Officer

Afternoon Council,

My efforts to increase turnout at RepCom has been largely successful with a strong coterie of people turning up to meetings. It is an on going process but one which is moving well. The John's formal hall was particularly enjoyable with the OUSU Rep from Catz and chair of council letting her hair down.

The CRIS conversion process is one which will take place over the break and I hope to have a new system in place by Michaelmas.

Sky negotiations are ongoing with the regional manager getting back to me on what he defines a 'charity' as. Probably not in the way that the law does or that I do but hopefully another step towards cheaper Sky TV for Oxford.

All the best for the break and I look forward to seeing most of you next year.

James

This term I have been working with the Women's Campaign on a couple of main projects. We have held a very successful slutwalk, which had around 250 participants, and a rally with speeches afterwards. This helped raise awareness of a whole group of injustices facing women, some of which I and the Women's Campaign will be following up. In particular, some of the issues arising from the resulting conversations with the Proctors' Office.

Secondly, WomCam has been planning our annual Love Your Body Garden Party, which will have meditation, hand massages, stalls, games, food, and dance! This event is focusing on rejecting the negative messages that the media push onto women, and reclaiming a love of our bodies whatever we look like.

WomCam has also engaged with OUSU council substantially, mandating me to take 3 motions to council, two of which have been passed so far, as well as the motions I have proposed in relation to policy lapse. These actions worked in tandem with WomCam hosting a public speaking workshop, to tackle issues of female involvement in student politics, as well as gendered dynamics in other argumentative settings. This was WomCam's only closed meeting this year.

I have also attended and participated in council and exec meetings to engage with other parts of OUSU. I also took part in developing the 'Mission Vision and Values' statement with other members of the exec. One of my aims for this term was to increase visibility and involvement with WomCam. Hosting such large and public events has achieved that.

Hi Council,

This was a lovely term working on the Athena Swan awards in the Medical Sciences. Progress has been a bit slow, particularly in the clinical departments. Nevertheless, I met with graduate representatives from several departments and supported their work in involving students in the process. All in all, a productive term!

I'll be around most of the summer, so do get in touch with me at gradwomen@ousu.org.

DIVISIONAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Jack Matthews

MPLS - Postgraduate Representative

Dear Council,

This term has been an interesting one to be your representative for Graduates on the MPLS Divisional Board and it's associated committees. For the majority of the term I have been in Canada and the USA for field work for my research and to present my work at a Conference. This has meant I have been unable to attend Academic Committee. However I submitted written responses to key issues. The main one of these was Student Representation on Departmental Reviews. My submission outlined why student representation on these Reviews was important, but that the burden should not lie on the Sabbatical Officers at OUSU alone. The report was well received and the discussion will continue into the future. Everything else is going along nicely and I have mainly been working to make sure Student Representation remains strong within MPLS, as well as working to make sure MPLS's needs are well catered for with regard to Student Number Planning.

This will be my last report to OUSU Council as I have decided not to restand next term. I strongly encourage you all to run for this position. It is incredibly rewarding and an often overlooked place in which you can make real change to student's lives.

It has been a real honour to represent students of MPLS for the past 3 years, and also a lot of fun. After 3 yrs on the committee, I must say a few thank yous.

Firstly to Joel Mullan - it was you who got me involved with OUSU nearly 5 years ago and if it hadn't been for you I wouldn't have got this great opportunity. OUSU Council 1st Wk MT09 - for persuading me to fill the position no one else wanted! Alex Halliday - for diligently chairing Divisional Board and making sure that my views were always heard and considered, you make MPLS an example to other Divisions. Board Members - for listening to me, and always keeping the debate friendly and civil. Lou Sumner and Nigel Berry - your support to the Board and myself is so often overlooked, but we couldn't do our work without what you do behind the scenes. David Pyle - for backing me up in debates and always looking out for young scientists. Susan Cooper - for your unwavering principled position on key issues and your ability to thoroughly review topics and present them in a way all can understand; the Board hasn't been the same without you this past year. And finally to this years Sabbatical team, who like no other before them, have reached out to Board Reps, engaged with them and supported. You set a high bar for your successors to follow.