

Reports to Council
7th Week Council Trinity 2014

Tom Rutland	President
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Hi Council,

My 40th (or thereabouts) and last OUSU Council. I've outlined the year's highlights below, and please forgive me for preceding it with a short list of thank yous.

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Our amazing staff team has been a rock of support this year and they work incredibly hard behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly without any public credit.

Thanks to Nick, Charlie and Anna for the thankless task of chairing Council, and to all of our ROs and DROs throughout the year. Special mention to Nick for the incredible amount of time he has given assisting us this year in a number of ways. And our part-time exec who have achieved amazing things in their first two terms.

Thank you to everyone who gave me this opportunity, whether as a friend, campaigner or someone who voted for me back in MT12. Hope it was worth it. Thanks also to my friends for the support over the past 12 months and for putting up with me. And to everyone who campaigned to stay in NUS this term.

Finally, thank you to all of **you** - those of you who give up your time to come to Council and speak on behalf of your common room, who sit on our committees and who hold us to account. OUSU is not just its elected officers - it's the 22,000 strong student body, and without people like you getting involved, it wouldn't be a strong and active union. Stay keen, stay involved, stay political.

Tom

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The year gone by:

OUSU Funding and Strategy

We won a permanent 66% uplift in our block grant from the University, meaning that OUSU will finally be on a stable financial footing.

We set in place OUSU's Mission, Vision and Values statement, declaring that OUSU exists to represent, support and enhance the lives of Oxford students, working towards an Oxford where students are true partners in shaping their Oxford experience.

By this time next week, we will hopefully have appointed a new CEO to the organization and they'll be working hard with the elected officers to further embed OUSU's work in the everyday student experience.

OUSU's governance, by the end of today, will hopefully have been shifted entirely onto the 'new documents' and we'll have finally gotten rid of the old Rules & Standing Orders, which puts future Council members in a good position to reform OUSU.

We're better placed than ever before to support student clubs and societies, allowing OUSU to reach beyond its traditional active membership base of common room presidents and OUSU reps.

OUSU Comms

This year, we delivered a proper website for OUSU. No more 1990s plain text web pages - the new website is a great way for us to communicate with the student body. We'll be moving our annual elections to it in MT14, with students able to use their Single-Sign-On to vote - which will hopefully increase turnout!

The new communications team is developing a communications strategy. We employed a Digital Communications Officer to focus on engaging students in their union. We're using the website more and more regularly, and building a real presence on social media. The weekly email you love to hate will be revamped for the next academic year.

Taking Action and Working Together

We took a strong stance against the Vice-Chancellor's comments seeking tuition fee rises, with over 20 JCRs joining OUSU in condemning the comments and calling for greater public investment in Higher Education - gaining national press coverage.

We worked with NUS and universities across the country to save the Student Opportunities Fund from being cut in its entirety, saving hundreds of millions of pounds of access funds.

We held a 'Meet your MP' session for students to bring up issues affecting them with their local MP. We worked with the University to win extra support for students who make complaints and appeals, meaning that they are dealt with more quickly.

I assisted many common rooms with rent negotiations, as well as providing 1-on-1 support for lots of common room Presidents on a whole variety of issues ranging from welfare issues to fighting unfair charges for students.

OUSU made a big effort to encourage JCRs to pass similar motions to those passed at OUSU Council on key issues like fees & funding and fossil fuel divestment.

Garlen Lo	VP (Graduates)
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Graduate funding

Have sent out a press release regarding the future of the Oxford Graduate Scholarship Matched Fund (OGSMF) and created a petition asking the Vice-Chancellor to invest in graduates by injecting more money in the scheme, which would otherwise come to an end. An official proposal will be delivered to the University in mid-July. Please sign!

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/p/continue-OGSMF>

OUSU Masters Survey 2014

With the 2013 masters survey responses resulting in serious quality review enquiries in certain departments by the central university, the 2014 survey has now been released for masters students to fill.

<http://goo.gl/i9Vfx9>

Division reps

Have seen the mapping of the division committees at postgraduate level, the bringing together of department reps, and the first department to have photos and email addresses on the department website.

<https://www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/study-here/postgraduates/your-representatives>)

Mature Students' Campaign (MSC)

Have organised a provisional date and location for the Mature Students Orientation Day. Saturday 11 October, Harris Manchester College. Further logistics and content for presentations are currently progressing.

International students

- Attended international student summit at Warwick University where Exeter College students Challenger and Esther came in second place in NUS's International Student of the Year.
- Supported OUSU's International Student Officer in her proposal for International Student Reps in common rooms.

MCRs

- Done a spring clean of MCR email lists for presidents, notices, and social secretaries. First time in a number of years this has been done, judging by the number of emails on the list!
- Begun the process of designing an MCR-wide newsletter.
- Have completed the MCR Presidents' Guide to OUSU handbook and shared with MCR Presidents.
- Received feedback on the Colleges and University position on the eligibility of Tier 4 visa students becoming Junior Deans. A long-term goal has now been set to challenge this.

Graduate rent

Negotiated with the University's Graduate Accommodation department the rent rise for 2014-15. After two proposals from the University and two proposals from me, the percentage increase fell from 2.6% to 2.5% resulting in a student saving of £24,270. For the rooms that were affected by the negotiations, the average saving per room was £7 per month. One type of couples room made a saving of £24 per month.

OUSU website

Have added a Graduate FAQ sections under my profile when you click on my photo from the OUSU homepage.

Committees

- Advocated for opening hours in the Weston Library
- Advocated for the enlargement of the Careers Service Internship Programme

Department and PPH reviews

Conducted three department reviews and one PPH review: School of Archaeology, Faculty of Linguistics, Phonology and Phonetics, Department of Physics, and Campion Hall (a lovely place to be!).

Postgraduate Strategy Summit (PSS)

Building on last term's PPS, a second PPS will be organised at the end of Trinity term.

Charlotte Hendy	VP (Welfare and Equal Opportunities)
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Hey everyone,

It's been a hectic term in a busy year, but I've had a great time working at OUSU and representing and supporting YOU! Thank you to everyone that I've worked with this year- you've really made my time at OUSU very special. ☺ Here are some of the things that I've been keeping busy with this term- enjoy!

Charlotte

OUSU's Student Advice Service

An exciting update for this term is that the Student Advice Service now has a manager! Cate, one of our Student Advisors, was appointed to this role, meaning there is now a vacancy for a student advisor. It was great to be a part of the recruitment process, and I am confident that the Advice Service will continue to grow and improve under Cate's leadership.

Wellbeing Week

This took place in 3rd week of Trinity Term, to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Week. The organization was mainly the work of OUSU's Mind Your Head campaign, and it was a great week of events. It will no doubt happen again next year, though perhaps with a few changes!

Freshers' Week training

Jamie (Health and Welfare Officer) have been running training on how to run an inclusive freshers' week for anybody that is responsible for organizing freshers' week this year. It has gone so well that we keep having to add more dates. 😊

The C-Card condom distribution scheme

I've worked closely with the GUM clinic to initially pilot, and now to spread the scheme more widely across Oxford colleges. Welfare reps from around half of Oxford colleges, and some college nurses, have attended training held at OUSU by the GUM clinic to learn how to operate the scheme in their colleges. Under the scheme, students are given an anonymous card, which they use to access packs of 12 condoms at a time, plus sexual health information. More work is needed for this scheme to reach more students, but we see it as a worthwhile addition to the current sexual health provision for Oxford students. In particular, we are looking into how we can train welfare reps elected at the end of Trinity term, ahead of freshers' week in Michaelmas, so that they are able to immediately sign up first years to the scheme.

Safe zones

These are local shops/businesses/buildings that have signed up to a 'Safe Zone' scheme and which display a sticker in their window, meaning students feeling unsafe are free to use their premises, including their phone, if necessary. Following a great deal of research on similar schemes elsewhere, and the feasibility of such a scheme in Oxford, I'll be taking a report to the OUSU Trustee Board meeting in 8th week. I hope that the necessary budget will be identified by OUSU, and the scheme will be implemented in the near future.

Suspended status students

This has been a major focus for Rachel and myself this year, and OUSU has worked with the University on their recent change in policy. Following this, we've been working with students who recognize the importance of this issue and wish to begin conversations with their college. We have held negotiation skills training, as well as meeting them individually to support them in this. Rachel and I also took a paper to Senior Tutor's Committee this term, and will be encouraging our successors to continue to work on this.

Rachel Pickering	VP (Access & Academic Affairs)
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Evening Council,

So the time is finally here, my last Council. Thank you all for a great year - it's been amazing working as your elected representative for Access and Academic Affairs. Here are a few of the things I've been working on this term (and for some of them over the course of the year) 😊

Student Led Teaching Awards

I really want to make sure that we use all the incredible qualitative data we gathered during the teaching awards to feed into teaching policy and practice - to that end I've met with the Oxford Learning Institute (who help train our tutors who to teach) and am working with them to write a report summarizing the main themes which come out of the data i.e. having a tutor who is willing to

be flexible with the curriculum, and models tutorials around a student's personal academic interests. I'll also be wrapping this work into the report I need to write to the NUS and Higher Education Academy as part of the grant funding deal received for the Teaching Awards.

Academic Representation

In preparation for Matt, our new Academic Representation Officer (who is starting in August) Garlen and I are working hard on a handover and intro to Oxford's representational structures. We are collecting data on current practice of departmental representation and collecting best practice from other University's to feed into the mega pack we give him for Day one!

Target Schools

Has progressed leaps and bounds this term - launching our 'On Tour' programme (equipping students with the information, skills and tools they need to go back into school and deliver outreach talks). We are also looking into a full review of our criteria for shadowing days - building on the availability of more targeted data sources (i.e. POLAR data - which looks at postcode information).

Lecture Capture

As part of my role I sit on lots of committees, to represent the views of students on various aspects of University educational policy. This term I've worked on a short survey on lecture capture (recording lectures) which I'm taking to Undergraduate Panel this week - have a read of the findings on my blog on the OUSU website!

Suspended Status Students

I think Charlotte has covered this in her report, so I won't re-iterate! But this has been a huge focus of my work this year - we've achieved great change for students but there is still a long way to go - James and Chris we are handing over to you now!

Not many more tweets to come from me, but do keep following @OUSU_AcAff - I'm sure James is excited to be taking over this twitter account soon!

Dan Tomlinson	VP (Charities & Community)
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Council,

This is my 12th and final report to OUSU Council. It has been a pleasure to be involved with OUSU this year. I wish my successor, Ruth Meredith, every success for the year ahead. I would like to thank my part time exec officers this year, Michael, James, Emily and Xav, and my campaign chairs, Jack, Molly, Andrew, James and Michaela for all their hard work and dedication to their roles - without you my report today would have been pretty much empty. I would also like to thank the other sabs and the OUSU permanent staff for being fantastic colleagues.

I thought I'd go back to the start now we are at the end; below I've listed some of my manifesto commitments and what I've done to try and achieve them. Below that I've listed things that I've been doing that are extra-manifesto. Swish.

Living Wage

"I will lobby the University to change their central policy to include a commitment to pay a living wage"/ "A University wide Living Wage"

This year I revitalized the Living Wage Campaign, it had almost no committed members at the start of the year. I worked with Ruth Meredith to bring it back to life by building relationships and a team of committed, skilled, students. Next year a core group of at least 7 students will take over. Because of the strong campaign I was able to achieve great things this year with the University. In a few weeks University Council will consider a recommendation from two other senior University Committees that the University become an accredited Living Wage Employer. Pretty much job done.

Over the next few years accreditation will put over £1million in the pockets of low paid University staff.

"I will make myself available to support individuals involved in college Living Wage Campaigns"
I've done this. I've regularly highlighted the issue to JCR and MCR Presidents. I also delivered a training session to St Anne's Living Wage Campaign - who have now gone on to be one of the few campaigns bold enough to take a paper to their Governing Body and then win.

Homelessness

"I want students to have a clear idea of which organisations in Oxford they can give money to in order to help the homeless in a more effective way" / "Action to alleviate homelessness"
I led OUSU's contribution to a Campaign against the County Council's proposed 38% cuts to services for the homeless and other vulnerable people in our County. Residents saw students caring about something other than fees and the County Council delayed a 1/3rd of the cuts for one year. Which was a fantastic achievement because these services aren't part of their statutory duty.

I worked with Emily Silcock to set up an OUSU Homelessness Campaign, called On Your Doorstep. She has been fantastic here and I can't claim too much credit but the campaign has now distributed collection boxes to almost every college and is busy planning what information it will distribute to Freshers in MT.

Bike theft

"Offer substantially discounted good quality D-locks to every single student in the University"
I've done this. Working with the University security services I managed to make 'Gold Sold Secure' locks available to students for £15 down from an RRP of £37. We've sold almost 1,000 so far this year.

RAG

"Make sure the RAG total doesn't stop climbing"
With much thanks to my predecessor for leaving RAG in such a strong position and to the students involved for being so dedicated I'm able to report that the RAG total is projected to be double that of last year, and to top the £200,000 mark for the first time in it's history.

"Establish a University wide RAG week"

This happened. We brought back RAG week from the dead. It was a relatively small affair, but then sometimes small things are beautiful. We held info evenings so students could learn more about our charities and put on a few small events. Something to build on for next year.

"I will collaborate with colleges and other fundraising groups in Oxford"

I worked with Giving What We Can to improve the effectiveness of RAG's charity selections.

Environment and Ethics

"I will work...to help the University [increase its score in the People and Planet Green League]"
Again, by working with others I think we've made great progress here this year. Last year we FAILED in the Green league. But this year, we've taken Fairtrade policy to the University, worked on (and approved in OUSU Council) a new Sustainability Policy for the University, I've been pushing for the University to stick to its ambitious 33% carbon reduction target. I predict we might even get a 2.i when the 2014 league is published in November. Watch this space.

Extra-manifesto

- Expanded the community warden scheme, put in place new structures to increase its effectiveness, worked to get generic publicity that doesn't have to be renewed every year. Left it in a good place for my successor to really work on increasing its impact and scope, agreed budget uplift for the scheme with previous CEO.
- Representing students in community partnership meetings - lots of this.
- Kicked off the drafting of a new Student Safety Plan with the University's Crime Reduction Advisor.
- Lobbied the University on Fossil Fuel Divestment, University wide consultation launched.

- Received approval from OUSU Council to end the Safety Bus Partnership, have begun research into alternatives and have met with taxi firms to discuss just this.
- Supported the formation of the Oxford Tenants' Union.
- Partnership on One Hour A Week Campaign with Oxford Hub.
- Partnership with British Heart Foundation and Oxford City Council to increase recycling when students move out, more collection boxes in colleges than ever before - 29 different locations.

So thanks Council, it's been a great year and I'm sad I'll never be back here again (unless I become a Grad). Never underestimate how important Council mandates are and how much power Council has. Use it wisely next year...

Sarah Pine	VP (Women)
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Evening council, here's a summary of what I've been up to this term. It's close to what I put in my manifesto when I ran for office, so I'm happy to have been able to follow on this work. I've loved my time at OUSU and will miss everyone here a lot.

Harassment

- Harassment policy - I've been lobbying the university for a workable harassment policy, which includes sexual violence, all year. The good work that It Happens Here and I did in November has come to fruition; the first draft of the policy has been written, and will be finalised this term. Next year Anna will oversee it going to the high-level university committees, and the predicted completion date is the end of Michaelmas. This was a manifesto pledge of mine, so I'm thrilled at the progress I've made this year.
- Specialist training for harassment advisors. This has been another big project of mine from my manifesto; now those people who are the frontline support for students experiencing harassment or abuse have the relevant skills. I've been working with the Equality and Diversity Unit to continue this training so that students are supported, regardless of their college or who they go to speak to.
- Ran a harassment and stalking information session for WomCam - this was in first week, and since then I've supported the committee member who is heading up their harassment working group, which aims to bring students who are interested in changing their college policies or provision together to share ideas and expertise.

Sexual Violence

- I've run a lot more consent workshops facilitator training sessions - I've so far run 12 this term. This is for students who want to run consent workshops in their JCRs and MCRs in freshers' week.
- I've run several training sessions on sexual violence training for JCRs, MCRs, general keen students and Nightline. This covers rape myths, perpetrator tactics, survivor responses in the short and long term, the law, and how to support people through sexual violence.
- In 6th week, I ran a workshop in survivor responses for WomCam. This was to fit with their white ribbon campaign, which is about standing in solidarity with survivors. The workshop was to bring about awareness of the experiences of survivors.
- White ribbons. I have cut up a lot of ribbons and pigged them to a lot of people.
- I've supported a project of It Happens Here's, they have recently started working with an art project. This work really complements their other more explicit campaigns, and gives voice to the experiences of survivors.
- Ran consent workshops in other communities, one for Queer Studies Circle and another for the Global Scholars Symposium, and a consent information session for Queens. A pledge in my manifesto was to extend consent events throughout the year
- Because I believe the current situation is detrimental to survivors of sexual violence, I have encouraged speakers with appearances at the Union to reorganise their talks to elsewhere.

Women in leadership

- This term I've helped organise and run the Women's Societies Garden Party - we're taking the good work forward. Eden (your Graduate Women's Officer) and I will be facilitating much more communication between women's societies in the future.

I've also won sponsorship for women's leadership development programme - this was something I ran throughout Hilary, and really enjoyed doing. It gets great feedback and is really valuable so I'm thrilled that it can continue.

TRUSTEE BOARD

Tom Rutland	Chair of the Trustee Board
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Report on the work of OUSU's Trustee Board (Academic Year 2013-14)

Meeting 13/09/13

Main items of discussion

OUSU Funding Working Group

- Tom Rutland (OUSU President, TR) and Brona O'Toole (OUSU CEO, BOT) reported back on the first meeting of the university/student union working group to discuss OUSU's strategic aims and funding bid, noting that things had so far been positive and that a bold funding bid should be made.

Draft 3-year Budget Submission

- BOT highlighted the key areas of proposed additional expenditure:
- Staff: Events & Operations Manager, Digital Communications Officer, Academic Representation Officer, SAS Manager.
- Other: Teaching Awards, Community Wardens Scheme, democratic structures, website development, communications and publicity.
- A more suitable student union building was raised as a long-term priority due to the current building being too far from general student footfall and insufficiently sized for potential increases in staff numbers.

Governance

- Proposed Bye-Law changes were discussed and later taken to Council for approval.

Student Advice Service Review Report

- It was noted that the annual turnover of the VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities role (who serves as the Manager of the Service) meant that the Service was at risk of instability. The lack of training and experience of sabbatical officers in undertaking Service work was also a risk. A move towards reducing the involvement of sabbatical officers in the work of the service and towards professional management would be desirable, but trends from casework could inform representation and campaigning work of elected officers.

Finance

- OUSU's reserves were being stored in university funds until a suitable alternative to the Co-operative Bank could be found. They had been moved due to concerns about the operations of the Co-operative Bank.
- Sabbatical Officers would need to be offered a pension in future due to changes in pension legislation.

Operations Report

- Induction of new officers was almost complete, the new website was about to be launched, Freshers' Fair planning was proceeding well and recruitment was continuing at a good pace.

Meeting 06/12/13

Main items of discussion

OUSU Strategy & Budget Process

- It was reported that the University's Education Committee had endorsed OUSU's strategic objectives and budget proposals, and that TR and BOT had been meeting with key university stakeholders to convince them of the need for greater funding for OUSU.

Election Updates

- Turnout was noted to be up by 0.1% on the previous year at a total of 20.8%
- There were a small number of complaints in the election, but more than in the previous year.

Risk

- The risk register is a valuable management tool that can allow for the main issues facing an organization to inform strategy and responsibility. As such, it is a 'living' document.
- High level risks should be discussed at each Board meeting.

Student Advice Service Review Update

- SAS Review was a good way of demonstrating the use of the risk register/
- A full-time professional manager for the service will ensure compliance and quality standards, and reduce the level of risk to the organization.
- VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities will have a reduced management burden and be able to focus on representation and campaigning work.
- Staff are covering the work of a manager as an interim solution whilst OUSU awaits the outcome of the budget request.
- Better management of the service will have to be found within OUSU's current budget if the budget uplift negotiations are not successful.

Governance

- OUSU prefers a flat hierarchy for decision making within the sabbatical team.
- Gender binaries should be removed from the governing documents.
- The proposal from TR (that OUSU should use a staff member as the returning officer (RO) in order to be inline with sector norms and to remove any concerns about potential bias of a student RO) was withdrawn after opposition from student trustees.

Operations Report

- Commercial income forecasts cautious but Freshers' Fair and Careers Guide appear to have been successful in raising revenue.
- Use of reserves approved by Trustee Board in order to continue funding the project management of the new website and the development of a communications platform. Finance Committee will review the Reserves Policy and the remuneration of Sabbatical Officers this year.
- Staff hires are continuing.
- A newly designed and more 'student-friendly' reception area will be operational in January.

Meeting 14/03/14

Main items of discussion

OUSU/OSSL Annual Accounts

- A surplus of around £41k occurred, primarily due to staff salary savings and the University not charging OUSU for various services.
- Reserves are higher than the target, but the use of reserves and the reserves policy are being considered.
- 2013 expenditure on publications was lower than the previous year due to the Alternative Prospectus being produced every two years.

CEO Recruitment Update

- Personnel Committee had agreed to appoint an interim CEO. Antony Blackshaw has excellent references and has met with members of the OUSU team. He will work 2 days a week and Paula Falck (Operations and Events Manager, PF) will assume extra responsibilities until a permanent hire is made.

Permanent CEO Recruitment

- A recruitment consultant was widely believed to be useful for ensuring a professional recruitment process that would attract the best candidates.
- It was agreed that having a new CEO in place before Michaelmas Term would be preferable, and some involvement in handover and induction for the new officer team in July would also be useful.

OUSU 3-year Budget Settlement

- BOT and TR were congratulated on achieving a three year budget deal with the university, with a 66% increase in permanent block grant ensured. Stability and flexibility will in OUSU's budget will be possible for the first time in OUSU's history.

Risk

- OSSL's advertising income may be at threat due to declining print media advertising, and thus the risk value for OSSL income should be increased.

Oxford Hub

- A meeting will be called with the Oxford Hub to ensure good working relationships between OUSU and the Oxford Hub, and to plan more partnership projects.

Governance

- General Regulations, new sabbatical officer remits and amended Bye-Laws reflecting OUSU's working should be ready for the end of Trinity Term.
- New Referendum Regulations are in place for the NUS affiliation referendum in Trinity Term.
- It was noted that the incoming sabbatical team were keen to engage with campaign governance in the forthcoming academic year.
- The Executive Committee should meet with Richard Jackson (External Trustee, RJ) to look at terms of reference etc. when Rules & SOs are repealed.
- The Board should be making a termly report to Council. TR will present one with his Termly Report to Council and ensure that communication between the Trustee Board and Council become a priority for the communications strategy.

Operations Report

- BOT's last report as CEO of OUSU. Outlined new organizational staff structure that will be more effective in supporting OUSU's core work. Three year budget plan will support OUSU's work. BOT also urged a focus on communication, academic representation, involving student clubs and societies and better relationships with external bodies for the future.
- TR thanked BOT for her service and noted her many achievements as CEO of OUSU.

The public minutes of meetings of OUSU's Trustee Board provide greater detail, and can be read on our website <http://ousu.org/your-union/trustees/minutes/>



Tom Rutland
Chair of the Trustee Board
Oxford University Student Union

PART TME OFFICERS

Jamie Wells

Health and Welfare Officer

This term has seen lots of different events and focuses on my part. In third week was the university Wellbeing Week, with a particular focus on raising awareness of mental health issues, and workshops about ways to deal with them. It was a great week, and thank you to everybody else who helped out with the planning and running of the events! Other than that the main focusses for me have be organising and running Freshers' Week training sessions alongside Charlotte for common room Freshers' Week committees, which have proved successful and had great turnouts, with three more to come this term! We have also started to look at the Safe Zone project, conducting some of the background planning and information retrieval needed to look into the viability of such a project in Oxford. Also, a quick thank you to all of the sabbatical officers for their work this year, but especially to Charlotte for the help and guidance she has given me in my role!

Xavier Cohen

Environment and Ethics Officer

On Saturday 31st May, the Fossil Free Future demonstration took place and it was a great success. There were around 200 people marching and listening to speeches about why the university and local council should take their savings out of fossil fuels, making it the largest fossil free demonstration ever in the UK. Further to this, 81 academics at the university have signed our joint letter calling for the university to divest, and we have begun to circulate a petition for alumni to sign to the same end. We even got publicity from the BBC, the Guardian and the Times. At the end of last term, the university's Socially Responsible Investment Research Committee issued a statement essentially asking people and groups to submit their opinions on fossil fuel divestment. Following all of this, and OUSU council's and 25 common rooms' support, the E&E campaign has been giving its best shot on pressuring the university to divest. To help us, please bring motions to your common rooms and get your tutors to sign the joint letter.

Emily Silcock

Community Outreach and Charities Officer

Hey council,
I'll be short because this meeting isn't going to be ...
The highlight of my last couple of weeks has been a meet-up of all the different student groups that act on the issues surrounding homelessness, in the university. We had a really great session, where we talked about a lot of issues, and everybody was very keen on collaborating more (which I love!)
Other than that, we've been making plans for Freshers' week and working out how to print stuff!
Have a lovely summer
Emily

Eden Tanner

Grad Women's Officer

G'day Council!

Trinity term has been an exciting time for Team Women. In the past week, we have fulfilled our main manifesto pledge - that is, to bring in compulsory consent workshops to at least a third of common rooms. Numerically, this amounts to 25 common rooms, and we have now tentatively surpassed this number.

The second of my manifesto pledges was to establish an accommodation database for College Couples and Family Accommodation. I am approximately one quarter of the way through this project. If you, or anyone you know, have lived in Colleges Couples or Family Accommodation, please send me an email at gradwomen@ousu.org.

The Oxford Women's garden party was held on the 31st of May, and was extremely successful. We're in talks to establish a Federation of Women's Societies, who operate in a similar fashion to PresCom. I've continued to sit on the Women's Campaign Committee and attend the Monday meetings where possible. We've had a challenging but productive term, and I believe that we'll continue to grow stronger as a Campaign.

I've also been continuing my work with student parents who are also graduate women, and I'm likely to continue this throughout Michaelmas as I start campaigning with more focus for baby changing facilities in Colleges. This will likely be my focus for the next term, along with hosting a series of 'Ask a Grad' events.

Until next time,
Eden E. L. Tanner

Sophie Terrett

Rent and Accommodation Officer

Hello, council!

I've had a very productive term and hope to have completed my three manifesto pledges by 8th week. The Oxford Tenants' Union has been a significant success, with notable highlights being our successful bid for funding from the People's Budget and embedding the union into the community. The Living Out guide will hopefully be up on the website by the end of term; I enjoyed the research updating the guide (which had not been done since 2011) and collaborating with other officers, and it should be in a much more accessible format. My third pledge was to raise awareness of the schemes in place for vacation storage, and this shall be completed by the end of term. I've really enjoyed my time on the Exec over Trinity and have many plans for Michaelmas!

Jena Meinecke

Graduate Academic Affairs Officer

- Encouraged all Divisional reps to have a lunch meeting with their departmental reps. I attended the MPLS meeting which provided fruitful discussions
- All Divisional reps are asking departments to provide clear information on their student representatives online. The Physics Department's website is being used as an example.
- To tackle issues that arouse from the Student Barometer, I have outlined a new graduate website for the Physics department with clear information on funding, welfare, relevant societies, etc. The Divisional reps were asked to encourage all departments to ensure these standards were met already. If not, actions should be taken to make sure that information is clear for students.

Mirela Ivanova

Academic Affairs Campaign Officer

I was only elected last term, but have since been collecting data for a report on Academic complaints procedures. I have spoken to the Student Advice Service, Divisional Reps, Faculty reps and College reps. I have collated college handbooks data and a report written on this two years ago. I intend to write the report in Week eight and circulate it around OUSU.

Yajing Xu

International Students' Officer

This term I have focused on connecting all Common Rooms International Reps and the International Officer. I have gathered information on the provisions available in the common rooms, curated the international rep mailing list, and sent an email last week to gather more names of international reps as well as people in equivalent positions (e.g. diversity/equal ops rep) to fill in the gaps, so every college will receive relevant information that is distributed through the list. I have also helped with organising the election of ISC committee, which might need to move to next term due to unforeseen circumstances.