

# Reports to Council

## 7<sup>th</sup> Week Council Trinity 2016

Becky	Howe	President	<b>Received</b>
Ali	Lennon	VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities	<b>Received</b>
Lucy	Delaney	VP Women	<b>Received</b>
Nick	Cooper	VP Graduates	<b>Received</b>
Cat	Jones	VP Access & Academic Affairs	<b>Received</b>
Emily	Silcock	VP Charities & Community	<b>Received</b>
Tom	Wadsworth	Academic Affairs Campaign Officer	<b>Received</b>
Adam	Kellett	Access & Admissions Officer	
Hilal	Yazan	Black & Minority Ethnic Students Officer	<b>Received</b>
Eric	LeGresley	Clubs and Societies Support Officer	<b>Received</b>
Yoni	Stone	Community Outreach & Charities Officer	<b>Received</b>
Fairlie	Kirkpatrick Baird	Environment & Ethics Officer	
Bo	Zhang	Grad Academic Affairs Officer	<b>Received</b>
Rebecca	Kuperberg	Grad Welfare Officer	<b>Received</b>
Kirthi	Bellamkonda	Grad Womens' Officer	
Katy	Haigh	Health & Welfare Officer	<b>Received</b>
Meera	Sachdeva	International Students' Officer	<b>Received</b>
Catherine	Kelly	LGBTQ Officer	
Ronak	Patel	Disabled Students' Officer	<b>Received</b>
Holly	Roy	Student Parents and Carers' Officer	<b>Received</b>
Tuesday	Doherty	Womens' Campaign Officer	<b>Received</b>

## Sabbatical Officers

### Becky Howe – President

Hello, you lovely lot,

It's hard to sit down and put a year's work into a Word Document. Nonetheless, I have done my best. A prize for anyone who bears with me until the end of this report. I'll do: manifesto pledges, other stuff I've done, and recommendations for my successor.

### Becky's End of Year Report

#### MANIFESTO PLEDGES

I had 11 manifesto pledges, grouped into 5 categories: welfare; rent and accommodation; common room support; lad culture; and celebrating university life outside of our degrees. In each section, I'll list what I pledged, what I did to fulfil that pledge, what I didn't do, and if I did more work in that area on top of my pledges, I'll note that down too. By my count, I've done 8 and a half of them, from all 5 sections, and laid the groundwork for a further one.

#### **1. Welfare Survey, Report, and Vision**

What I pledged:

- *'Investigate the efficacy of the current welfare systems in colleges, and establish best practices, especially regarding procedures around mental health'*
- *'Review the **counselling service**, in conversation with students'*
- *'Explore alternative models of welfare provision, comparing our system to those at other universities, and assessing suitability for Oxford'*
- *'Present proposals for pastoral care improvements to the student body and to the University'*

What I did:

- **Designed, piloted and ran a welfare survey**, which had nearly 6,000 responses in the space of 5 weeks. The survey included sections on:
  - Academic life and welfare
  - Suspension
  - Mental health and mental illness
  - Getting support – including the **University Counselling Service**
  - Disability and chronic illness
  - Harassment and discrimination
- Worked with Ali to write a report on the findings of the survey. We hired interns to analyse the data. They created their own code to do so.
- Wrote a **45-page report on the survey**, contextualising our findings with other studies and data such as the Student Barometer, NUS' handbook on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and national studies on student mental health.
- Wrote a Welfare Vision, **presenting proposals for welfare reforms** to the student body. The report has already gone to some University committees, and will be going to four more before the end of

term. If the Vision passes OUSU Council tonight, it will join the report in going to the last University committees of term.

- Conference of Colleges – which is the body through which all colleges communicate with each other and make collaborative decisions – have decided to create a Welfare Forum to **share best practice** in a variety of areas, including mental health. There will be OUSU representatives in this group, and the first ever meeting of the Welfare Forum will be a 2-hour discussion of the findings of OUSU's report.

What I didn't do and why:

- *'Explore alternative models of welfare provision, comparing our system to those at other universities, and assessing suitability for Oxford'*
  - My priority this year was establishing what the situation is in Oxford in regards to student welfare, mental health, and support. We now have that report, that data, and that momentum. I think the groundwork is now absolutely set for our successors to work on alternative models with the colleges and University. Indeed, this is outlined in the Welfare Vision.

Extra work in this area:

- Ali and I decided to give individual reports to common rooms on how their respondents answered the survey. For the sake of anonymity and representative sample sizes, we are only able to do this for common rooms with a 50% response rate or higher. These are taking a really long time, but will be with common rooms by the end of term.

## 2. Rent and accommodation

What I pledged:

- *'I will support JCR and MCR reps in securing the best rent deals possible for their students'*
- *'I will improve the rent negotiations pack'*
- *'[I will] run negotiation and strategy workshops.'*
- *'Lobby university committees to commit to annual rents and charges discussions in each college with common room representatives'*

What I did:

- **Designed and ran two workshops** on rent negotiations, which focused on **strategy**, using statistics effectively, lobbying, and **negotiating**. Just over 40 common room representatives from attended these workshops, from across the University.
- I did a lot of work on OUSU's **rent negotiation handbook**. It is now completely updated, has been professionally designed, and instead of just emailing it out to common room reps as has happened previously, we also had booklets printed and pledged to reps. I also amended unnecessary references to 2015-16 specific-things — sentences like 'get in touch with OUSU President, Becky Howe, with questions' became 'get in touch with the OUSU President with questions' — so that my successor can just hand out the booklets at the beginning of the year, without having to spend time editing it. I hope this will save future OUSU officers time, as I don't think this will need to be updated again for at least a couple of years.
- I've **supported reps** on a one-to-one basis from common rooms across the University, by reading over draft proposals, crunching data, and advising on tactics.

What I didn't do and why:

- *'Lobby university committees to commit to annual rents and charges discussions in each college with common room representatives'*. I didn't get colleges to commit to annual rent negotiations. This was for a variety of reasons: firstly, what works in for some common rooms sometimes doesn't work for others, and secondly, I think this needs to be part of a wider discussion about rent and accommodation in colleges. I hope this will be done in the future.

Extras:

- **Comparative booklets**: one of the pros of a collegiate system is that using comparisons is a great way to lobby a college to change something. Using data I collected from common room reps, I put together two booklets – one for undergrads and one for grads - to compare how rent and accommodation works for members of each common room. I hope this'll be useful in rent negotiations, not just for the coming year but also for future cohorts of rent negotiators.
- Collecting a **list of rent negotiation outcomes**, so that successors – both in OUSU and across the common rooms – will know what happened in this year's rent negotiations. This can really help develop institutional memory. This has also been a really great exercise because it's **amazing** what so many common room reps have managed to negotiate for their students – whether it's a below-VNI rent increase, or concessions such as free sanitary products, there have been so many brilliant wins, and I hope the common room reps involved know how great they are.

### 3. Common room support

What I pledged:

- *'Make **training sessions...available** for (common room) presidents **every term**, to account for different handover schedules'*

What I did:

- **Ran training every term**. We had sessions on: lobbying and campaigning; liberation issues; dealing with conflict; chairing meetings; being assertive on college committees; and giving and receiving feedback.
- All three went well, with 100% of the 33 participants saying they'd recommend it to their successor.

Extra work in this area:

- I met with almost every single JCR president at the beginning of their term, to talk through their priorities and let them know how OUSU can help.
- I've created a cute little document of 'how OUSU can help you in your common room role', which details training, mailing lists, and forums available. This is something I'll give to Jack to give to common room presidents.
- As a sabb team, we're putting together a database of training we offer to common room reps, so our successors will have all the resources they need to keep delivering the training!

### 4. Lad Culture

What I pledged:

- *'open up discussion on 'Lad Culture' and the impact it has on our university community'*
- *'launch a series of discussion forums'*

What I did:

- Worked with Lucy (VP Women) to create a **series of discussions**, all together in a symposium on lad culture. These were on: lad culture today and why we're still talking about it; race and lad culture; queerphobia and lad culture; and ableism and lad culture. It went well!

Extra work in this area:

- OUSU was been selected to be one of nine pilot SUs on a new NUS Lad Culture Audit. As part of this, I've been continuing some of last year's sabb team's work on OUSU's complaints policy and harassment policy, which is now done and up to date.
- As part of the lad culture audit, we went to the Tackling Lad Culture conference, which Lucy presented a workshop on how to do lad culture and sexual violence related training at universities.
- I went to an All-Party Parliamentary Group on sexual violence at university, and spoke about how students and student unions are doing a great deal of work, and that universities need to catch up. Our MP, Andrew Smith, came with me.

## 5. Oxford Students' Festival

What I pledged:

- *'We rarely have the opportunity to come together to celebrate our extra curricular talents and strengths. I would introduce a weekend-long Oxford University Festival to showcase all clubs, societies, teams, campaigns and groups who wish to participate'*

What I did:

- **Hosted a festival!** It was a day-long event with a lot of great performances and stalls, international cuisine, and Student Awards in the evening. It was really fantastic to see so many students sharing their interests and talents with their peers, and we also had a lot of members of the local community coming in. Turnout was undoubtedly affected by Torpids; I started planning the Festival back in July '15, and ensured that we wouldn't clash with Torpids, but unfortunately Torpids was moved by a week when we'd already made lots of bookings and couldn't change the date. But overall I'm happy with how the day went – especially as it's the first event of its kind that's happened in the University!
- I've written an evaluative document this week so that next year, if my successor decides to organise the Festival again, he'll have lots of pointers and ideas on how to make it bigger and better.

## **WHAT I'VE DONE OTHER THAN MY PLEDGES:**

RESPONDING TO GOVERNMENT DOING SHIT

- We submitted **our response** to the government's **Green Paper** in January, which Nick, Cat and I wrote. I was a panel debate about the Green Paper, hosted by the Department of Education.
- WE ARE DOING A RESPONSE TO THE WHITE PAPER
- **Maintenance grants:** In July's emergency budget, the government announced their proposal to abolish undergraduate maintenance grants. In September, Cat (VP Access and Academic Affairs) and I lobbied Oxford's two MPs to oppose the abolition, and in November, Cat, Lucy (VP Women) and I went to a national demo in London with 40 students from Oxford Uni.
- Earlier this year, I went to the **County Council** offices to join **On Your Doorstep** in protesting the devastating cuts the government are forcing the Council to make. Despite a big protest and incredible speeches from protesters within the Council meeting room, the cuts were passed;

meaning horrendous cuts to vital services such as children's centres and homeless support organisations. We asked Andrew Smith MP to come out in support of the protest, which he did on Twitter.

#### UNI COMMITTEES and the like

- I regularly attended 25+ committees, including: University Council, Conference of Colleges, and Planning and Resource Allocation Committee.
- I was on the review panel for the departments of: oncology, theology and religion, and teaching in the museums.
- **Student IT Innovation:** I sat on the judging panel for the Student IT Innovation challenge. In this, students pitch their projects relating to IT – websites, apps, etc – and the panel decide whether to fund them. There were some amazing presentations, and I was really excited to have been able to see them and support student innovation!

#### TRUSTEE STUFF

- I chaired our Board meetings (3 per year)
- We had our first ever General Meeting to ratify our new Articles of Association
- We've changed how our executive will work, making the campaigns central to our executive, and having a place for a JCR and a MCR president!

#### NUS REFERENDUM

- I co-led the Yes to NUS campaign with Lucy, VP Women. We had an incredible team of students working with us and I'm glad we're staying affiliated. However, I think it is vital that we now work together with NUS to ensure they reform in the ways we need them to.

#### **Recommendations to my successor:**

Jack: I'm so excited to see what you do over the next year. We both ran for this role with the aim of working on student mental health, and now you have *so much* data to help you with this – I know you'll make the absolute most of it.

We've also made a big database of training materials – hope you find it helpful! (Plz use it).

Finally: we're staying in NUS for now, so make the most of it and what it offers. But more importantly, make sure you listen to the students who wanted to leave NUS, and ensure that NUS hears their calls for reform and accountability.

#### **And finally.....**

Thank you, dear students. For such a wonderful, painful, stressful, rewarding, humbling, exhausting year. Thanks to all the people who are there for me, who inspire me, who have made Oxford such an incredible place to be (I won't list you 'cos I haven't just won the X Factor). I love you all very much.

Becky x

## Ali Lennon – VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities

Dear Council,

In my final report I'll want to cover some of my achievements, my manifesto, and some of leaving thoughts.

Firstly, this year has been incredibly challenging and rewarding. On some of the days I regret running and on others I think I never want to leave OUSU. Working in both Welfare and Equal Opportunities has been tough. Some days you can make a real difference and change the course of a student's academic career and occasionally their life, on other days you face some of the most difficult and upsetting situations imaginable and they leave you in tears in the office toilets. I feel like I've seen the worst and best bits of Oxford. There are some incredible people in this University who give their all to help students. There are some amazing people in the Counselling Service, Disability Advisory Service, and the Student Advice Service who go above and beyond, for student, behind the scenes.

I've done my best to complete my manifesto but there were areas that weren't possible or were overly ambitious and so I've not managed to complete some promises. Similarly, once in office I realised the huge range of things requiring attention and energy and I had to devote my time accordingly. Prevent has been one of the greatest challenges I've faced and one I never thought would take so much of my time or efforts. In addition to this, I've found myself on the receiving end of all sorts of complex and shocking issues that require immediate attention. I've received requests for help at all hours of the day and night and in all places imaginable. I've been approached for help in the street, in nightclub smoking areas, in the line for pizza, and as a result I never go anywhere without the contact details of welfare services.

Unfortunately, I've also received some abuse for doing this job. In this role I deal with difficult issues that are often emotionally charged and they can mean a lot to individual students. As a result when I have to disappoint or disagree with students or say "sorry this is my weekend and it's 10PM" I've been abused and insulted. I faced a barrage of insults in person and online. Some who believe they are the only student I work for has also treated me like a doormat. I would ask that in future we remember that everyone is human and everyone deserves to be treated with respect.

Lastly, I want to highlight some positives of this year. The sabbatical and staff team have all been fantastic. Our office is a supportive environment with people who work obscene hours to improve things for the student body and local community. They are all admirable and deserve our thanks. We've achieved a lot and we've been pushing every day for things to be improved. I think the quote

"Nobody knows what we do until we don't do it"

sums up OUSU quite well sometimes. But the truth is OUSU does a lot, OUSU is always improving, and it is getting better every day of every year. I look forward to seeing what it looks like in a few years and I wish the sabbatical team for next year the best of luck.

Hopefully we've made Oxford a little happier, healthier, and cohesive.

For the last time,  
Alasdair Lennon  
Vice-President (Welfare & Equal Opportunities)

## Lucy Delaney – VP Women

### Training

#### Consent

I am currently in the process of organising the coordination of consent workshops, alongside other liberation workshops, for next year's freshers week. I am running several facilitator training sessions this week and next and am establishing links between all women's officers in each common room to ensure that the process runs smoothly.

This year I focused on getting more graduate common rooms to establish and run compulsory consent workshops, and it has been largely successful.

#### First Respondent Training

I have trained the majority of Women's Officer and Welfare Officers, as well as many peer supporters, Presidents and Freshers Committees in first respondent training, a significant achievement and something which I am very proud of. Colleges do not provide enough support for survivors, and whilst I do not believe that support should fall to students and student officers to provide, it is vital that survivors are getting the short term support and sign-posting right now. Thank you to everyone who attended, this work is invaluable.

#### Lad Culture

Myself and Becky have been working closely with NUS as a pilot union in their tackling lad culture strategy. They have given us excellent guidance and I am extremely pleased to say that, due to their help, I have managed to persuade the University to agree to a joint strategy on fighting sexual violence, harassment and lad culture.

Last month we attended NUS's Tackling Lad Culture conference, and, to bring together the work that myself and Becky have done or planned here in Oxford, last month, we ran a symposium, called 'Not In My University', where we held panels led by different liberation groups on the impact of lad culture. From this we have also made notes, to help inform our next steps on what we as an SU and institution need to do to better address lad culture, and to address it not just by fighting sexism and misogyny but by recognizing it as part of a wider system of entitlement and oppression.

#### Handbooks

I have been working on updating the Women's Officer handbook ready to be sent out also to common room Women's Officers, with more example motions, and with more focus on activism, supporting other liberation officers and encouraging greater collaboration.

#### Data and Resources

I am trying to ensure that I have all the correct and up-to-date data on women's officers and liberation officers, and college resources such as safe spaces, gender neutral toilets, morning after pill



reimbursement etc etc.

I am building on the Women's Officer drive created last term to ensure that all Women's Officers are equipped with motions and resources, and so that vital changes e.g. gender neutral toilets, reimbursements, safe spaces, solidarity with liberation movements, are achieved swiftly and uniformly across colleges. This will also be part of a wider Liberation Officer drive.

## NUS

Lastly, as most of you are aware, last week students voted to keep OUSU affiliated to NUS. This is hugely important, and I would like to express my gratitude to every single person who aided with this campaign. I maintain that I could not do my job without them, and so for me leaving was not an option. Words cannot express how pleased I am that we as a student union will be continuing our relationship with this national body who have done so much for all students, yes, but particularly marginalized and underrepresent students.

It has been an incredibly difficult year, however, important things were achieved and I am more than confident that these successes will be built upon and developed, and that the new team will not only bring some fantastic new ideas, but will carry them out to fruition and have a tangible impact on students. I would like to thank the sabbatical team, the OUSU staff, my campaigns WomCam and It Happens Here, for all the amazing work you've done. Thank you also to my successor, Orla White, who has already started the ground work for next year, I know you will be incredible.

## Cat Jones – VP Access and Academic Affairs

Hey Council,

This is my last ever report to you all so I am going to take the opportunity to review my progress this year against the manifesto promises I made when I ran for this role. Overall I am very proud of the significant achievements in many areas but –like probably every sab ever – there simply haven't been enough hours in the day to tidy-up everything I had hoped to.

### **1. Increase support for common room access reps by running rep forums more frequently**

Done. I held access rep forums (and academic rep forums) twice every term. I also responded to access reps' requests for further support in relation to interviews by running interview helper training for the first time. In response to academic reps, we ran a specific training session on 'campaigning for educational change'. I hope these become a standard part of what OUSU offers to common room reps in future.

### **2. Expand access road trips by providing information packs**

Done. I worked with the wonderful Target Schools Co-Chair Ben Peacock to produce an information pack for reps looking to start run their own road trip. Target Schools also offered training to access reps on this issue and are overseeing more student-led road trips than ever before.

### **3. Create a university wide database of access volunteers**

On its way... At the start of the year I decided that an ambassador database would be more sustainable if it was embedded within the university's outreach database rather than just help within OUSU. I have been working with the university to identify the database fields that will be most

beneficial in matching students to access opportunities. I hope my successor continues to push for this to ensure that student volunteers are deployed effectively across the collegiate university.

**4. Support the expansion of Target Schools' shadowing scheme**

Done. I have worked with Target Schools to successfully pilot a new travel bursary scheme. They've increased the number of road trips they oversee, whilst continuing to successfully run numerous shadowing days – including a fantastic event run jointly with the African & Caribbean Society. I've also done a lot of work on improving their safeguarding procedures and their constitution.

**5. Improve student feedback by giving all students the chance to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of their course and by producing a report of best practice from the results**

Done in lots of different ways. This was partially achieved by the Student Written Submission, which was based on widespread student consultation and highlighted strengths and weaknesses across the university. The university have produced a response to each of our 36 recommendations and an action plan is in place. In addition, Nick and I carried out another consultation about students' experience of college provision which we used to write a separate report. This resulted in changes to college guidelines around workload. I have facilitated student feedback above and beyond what is usually required in department/ course reviews for students in Biochemistry, Sociology, PPE, and Graduate Entry Medicine.

**6. Increase the availability of vacation residency**

I was rather naïve in writing this one....! I very quickly realised that I had very little power to actually change this from my position but I have raised awareness of the issue in every relevant committee. I also published information about vacation residency on the Alternative Prospectus website to give applicants the information but also to provide college reps with leverage and comparison data against in their own colleges.

**7. Continue campaigning for suspended status students**

Done. I worked with the incredible Kate Cole to start up OUSU's new suspended status campaign. In just one year we have run socials, carried out a large survey and produced an information booklet and numerous committee papers. We have raised awareness amongst students, common rooms, university committees, external agencies, senior tutors and junior deans. We have lobbied on access to facilities and re-entry criteria. This isn't won yet but the progress this year has been amazing.

**8. Campaign for wider use of technology, particularly lecture recording**

Done. I worked with OSDC to successfully lobby the University's Education Committee who endorsed the use of lecture recording in Hilary Term. The platform and technical support is being funded by IT services so that departments can use it free at the point of use. I have equipped course reps across the university with the arguments they need to ensure that each individual department takes full advantage of this.

**9. Work to extend library open hours at weekends**

This is the only pledge I haven't made progress on. This is due to an early decision I made to lower the priority of this work on the basis on student feedback (Oxford has the highest library satisfaction in the UK), the libraries' recent budget cuts, and the unforeseen complication of the conflict between the times most requested by undergraduates (weekend opening hours) and those preferred by graduates (vacation times).

**10. Address concerns related to graduate supervisors**

I submit on this one to the brilliant Nick Cooper who has advocated for dual supervision and raised concerns at every possible opportunity. In his absence, I ensured concerns about mechanisms for dealing with breakdowns in supervisory relationships were central in the Biochemistry review.

#### **11. Deliver the biggest and best OUSU teaching awards ever**

Done. (Although much of the credit must go to OUSU's incredible permanent staff). For this year's teaching awards we added 2 additional award categories and received 650 nominations – more than ever before. The town hall was at capacity for the event, which was attended by 300 staff and students. There was prosecco, canapés and performances from OKIEM and the Oxford Belles. The new Vice-Chancellor attended and spoke at the event, which is a sign of it's growing status.

Moving away from my pledges, the other stand-out change this year has been the development of the **Alternative Prospectus Website** ([apply.ousu.org](http://apply.ousu.org)). This is a huge step in our attempts to counter myths about Oxford life, Oxford students and the admissions system. It engaged hundreds of current students in the process and reached thousands of state schools via flyers and will reach hundreds more potential applicants at the upcoming open days.

This year has also seen a large number of government consultations. We have pushed back on government proposals to abolish maintenance grants, introduce the Teaching Excellence Framework and retrospectively alter the repayment threshold on student loans. The governments have ignored the views of students on all of these issues so far this year and next year's team will need to continue to fight these regressive changes.

And finally, a disproportionately large part of my role involves sitting on committees. I have been your representative on; University Council, Education Committee, Undergraduate Panel, Exams Panel, Joint Fees and Student Support Advisory Group, Hardship Review Group, Joint Subcommittee of Education Committee with Student Members, Admissions Executive, Admissions Committee, Contextual Data Working Group, Access Target Working Group, Outreach Officers Forum, Moritz-Heyman Management Group, Qualifications Working Group, Regionalisation Working Group, Access Targets Working Group, Student Attainment Panel, Curators of the Bodleian, Quality Assurance Subcommittee, Sports Strategic Subcommittee, Senior Tutors Committee and Quality Assurance Working Group.

A massive thanks to everyone I've worked with this year xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

#### **Emily Silcock - VP Charities and Community**

Hey council,

You know that bit in the sound of music where all the Von Trapp kids come and sing a song before they go to bed and then the really shy kid is like "I'm glad to go, I cannot tell a lie"? That is literally me right now.

That's not to say that this hasn't been a great year – I've had the opportunity to work with some amazing people. Particular thanks and love to my PTE, Fairlie and Yoni, not least for deciding to stick with me through another election – and for doing things that actually matter; to Chris and Joe and all of our RAGlings for their unremitting enthusiasm and commitment; to my campaign and sub-campaign

chair, Fergal & Sam, Claire & Henri, Rivka, Jacob, Freya, Tom, Thais, Claire, Miriam & Jit, Zoe & Eduin and Kirsty for so so many achievements, which I've unscrupulously taken credit for in this report; to Yin, our senior Community Warden for being so much more on it than me; to the JCR Presidents (sorry Nick), particularly the women for being a fantastic support network and place to vent all of the anger; to the wonderful wonderful staff of OUSU, particular my RAG Co-ordinator, who I'm fairly sure I wouldn't have survived this year without. And finally, to the rest of the sabbatical team – congratulations to us on being better than the last lot!

So over to you Beth: good luck – you will be fantastic!

### **So here's my round-up of the year:**

#### *Community*

- I matched 20 students with local families for Christmas day. They ranked this 9.44/10 on average and 100% of hosts and participants said they would recommend it to a friend.
- I produced a guide for community groups and organisations, to give them information about how they can get students involved in their campaign or cause. I've sent this out to over 40 organisations in Oxford.
- I carried out a review of the Community wardens and restructured them, including employing a senior community warden. They've door-knocked over 1500 houses, run two student-community events, run their own community newsletters, improved connections with colleges and they're generally just a million times better.

#### *Voter registration*

- I organised Pledge2Reg, which saw 1771 people registering to vote ahead of the EU referendum – and also sparked a lot of new college rivalries.
- With the help of Adam Ward and his team, we delivered 5000 postal vote forms to Oxford students.
- I sent out over 100 voter reg event kits to student representatives.
- Ahead of the local elections, I organised a fabulously-attended hust of the candidates for Carfax.

#### *University Procurement Policy*

I successfully lobbied the University to change their procurement policy so they no longer contract with tax-dodging multi-nationals.

#### *Environment and sustainability*

- I worked with Fairlie to deliver #VeggiePledge, which had 714 participants from 33 colleges. I've also put together Veggie Starter Packs to give to every participant in #VeggiePledge2016
- I've organised collections of food and household goods at the end of every term to go to the Community Emergency Foodbank and the British heart Foundation.
- OUSU got a Green Impact Gold awards after I spent many many hours filling out the workbook.
- I facilitated partnerships between different green groups in Oxford, especially around COP21 and Go Green Week.

### *Campaigning for Change*

I ran an 8-week training course in Hilary, training students in how to campaign. I had 40 people take part and had workshops run by Oxfam, People & Planet and Amnesty International.

### *Common Room Officers*

- I've run termly dinners and training for Environment and Ethics Officers. I've already collated a huge quantity of resources for them and have successfully cultivated an environment where they share ideas and ask for advice.
- We've reworked the way RAG engage with charity reps and now run termly CharityComs, where attendance is much higher than previously. We also had two interns in to produce a 70-page Charity Rep handbook, which will be distributed to all reps at the beginning of next term.
- I've collated all the resources that OUSU has for Common Room officers into one big google drive.
- I've encouraged many grad common rooms to have charity reps – there are now 18 that have one.

### *Bikes*

- I've started up dialogue between different parts of the university that provide resources for cyclists and we've produced a joint leaflet to be given out to everybody who engages with us.
- I've put in place a plan to sell good-quality, secure bikes ahead of next term. It's now up to the new team to make this happen!

### *RAG*

- We've started a scheme of RAG micro-interns, which has been a great way of engaging different people. We've also had 3 student consultancy teams, which just ticks so many boxes.
- We more than doubled the number of nominations for the RAG Charity ballot.
- I've interviewed so many people for so many RAG positions and now have 100+ volunteers working for RAG. We also now provide training to all these people.
- We've made the Casino legal.
- We handed out a shit-tonne of Chocolate milk.

### *Campaigns and campaign review*

- I've completely restructured my campaigns this year – and it's great and should be able to facilitate a HUGE amount more students campaigning on causes that they care about.
- Environment campaign
  - o Divestment have done great work calling the university to live up to their own standards.
  - o VegSoc have supported many many people in lobbying for Meat Free Mondays and given much support to veggie and vegan students.
  - o The food waste working group has written a report to the Domestic Bursars committee encouraging them to recycle food waste and has won this fight in several colleges.

- Incredible Edible has managed to get the university to give them an area for edible planting, in the science park.
- Community campaign
  - On your Doorstep: They ran a successful Homelessness Awareness week that had 437 people attend events and raised over a thousand pounds for homelessness charities. They also co-ordinated action against cuts to the Housing Related Support budget.
  - Living Wage: doubled the number of colleges accredited to the Living Wage.
- Global Justice campaign
  - The refugee campaign successfully created a scholarship fund to allow refugee students to access study at Oxford – which is pretty much the fastest I’ve ever seen the University move.
  - Electronics watch have made great inroads into getting the University to accredit and have collected a huge amount of data.
  - The lovely Tom will be chairing this campaign, council-willing, and I’m excited about how great it’s going to be!

### *OUSU Internal*

- I’ve led on the Project incubator and got this ready to be up-and-running next term.
- We’ve moved the OUSU reserves to ethical bank accounts.

And with that *auf wiedersehen adieu*,

Emily

### **Nick Cooper – VP Graduates**

Evening, Council! Unbelievable that we’re now at the end of our year. My many thanks to everyone (or, at least, most people) who has made it (again, mostly) so enjoyable, and who have helped me to represent graduate students this year. This includes all the graduate Common Room Presidents and other officers, the Divisional Board representatives, my Part Time Executive (past and present) and of course, the five other Sabbatical Officers. A wonderful team all round.

And so, for the final time, here is what I’ve been up to over the last fortnight, followed by my highlights from the year. Good luck to Marina next year – she’ll be great, and can hopefully do all the things I’ve failed to do.

### **My last fortnight**

- **Visions** – The last fortnight has been a veritable Vision Express, with one new Vision written (*Graduate*), one updated (*Access*), and another amended (*Education*). You’ll find them all on the agenda today. These strategic documents are incredibly useful for us as officers – they allow us to make priorities in the medium term, and ensure we are representing the range of student views when in committees and other discussions.
- **Reports to the University** – I’ve completed my report on Masters provisions; you’ll find the recommendations in the Graduate Vision, and I’ll publish the full report soon. I’m just finalising the report on DPhil supervision standards, and will pass this on to Marina to discuss its findings with the University.

- **Committees** – Plenty of these as ever. Highlights include the new Hardship Review Group (to hopefully improve the current hardship provision, especially for students who are currently not eligible for certain funds), and Graduate Admissions Committee, discussing how to improve the quality of the offer provided to graduate applicants. Gist: more money; guarantee of accommodation.
- **OUSU internal stuff** – There's always some of this. Meeting Campaigns, meeting Executive, doing some campaign constitutions etc.
- **Before I leave...** - only two weeks left, but still have to: be part of the review of the Department of Computer Science; discuss the Welfare Survey and OUSU's Impact Report at Education Committee and University Council; finish our response to the Government's White Paper with Becky and Cat; a few more committees; and finish my handover document.

### A few highlights

- The Student Written Submission to the Higher Education Review. This was an incredibly useful exercise, and we are pleased that the University has agreed to take many of our recommendations forward (we will publish their response in due course).
- Consulting on, and writing, an Access Vision to set out our priorities for improving access to graduate education.
- Working with Common Rooms, meeting most of the Common Room Presidents (c. 50 meetings), attending six Graduate Presidents' Committee meetings, and writing a Graduate Vision to embed the importance of graduate students for the University, and for OUSU
- Surveying graduate students on their experiences here, and writing three reports with recommendations for the future (one on Masters provision; one on DPhil supervision; one on college provisions), and a response to a consultation on graduate reporting (with most recommendations agreed to by the University)
- Negotiating down rents in the University graduate accommodation to a 2.9% rise, and successfully encouraging a fairer balancing of accommodation allocation based on college allocation
- Reviewing all of OUSU's governance, with the help of the whole team and Campaigns – and scrapping 80 pages of rules, while making it easier for students to get involved in OUSU's work

As ever,

Nick

### Part-Time Executive Officers

#### Tom Wadsworth – Academic Affairs Campaign Officer

The last two weeks have been incredibly busy in terms of campaigning over the NUS so I haven't been able to do anything much more than this. The NUS campaign consisted of a lot of draining work, particularly in leafleting when on the streets and organising documents behind the scenes. I have however talked to the chair of SusCam since then about the meetings for the rest of term, as well as looked to start helping with other non-OUSU groups that are related to academic affairs.

### **Hilal Yazan – BME Students Officer**

I have been in conversation with Catherine Paxton, Director of Student Welfare and Support Services about welfare concerns regarding Prevent, and can now confirm that there will be a separate inbox for reporting concerns about the implementation of the duty. I've written the blog post on Tutor for Race and will be collating resources by the end of term for colleges which would like to campaign for a Tutor for Race. Finally, race workshop facilitator training is starting this week, so I hope many people come along.

### **Eric LeGresley – Clubs and Societies Support Officer**

In terms of raising the profile of my role within OUSU and the university, I have been very active. I have provided help to many clubs including the newly formed Electronic Music Club and the Pakistan Club. I have helped many other clubs to register, get senior members, and with advice regarding various processes in running clubs. I have also responded to many queries regarding the history of clubs and assembled a database of all previous registered clubs to early 2009 for this purpose. I believe I have made this role in OUSU more accessible to the university population and made it a more realistic contact for students in need of guidance for setting up clubs. In addition to this, I have created a roadmap for creating a club that will be uploaded on the new OUSU website. I believed this was sorely needed to simplify the process of creating clubs.

### **Yoni Stone – Community Outreach and Charities Officer**

Hi Council, not a lot to report. Unfortunately, and supremely annoyingly, the event that I had hoped to put on in Radcliffe Square this term fell through. I have begun planning for Michaelmas with a view to Freshers' Fair and the postponed event.

### **Bo Zhang – Graduate Academic Affairs Officer**

I'm on course and have drawn highlight points from the student barometer data from the past years. The conclusions/ideas will be communicated and discussed with VP Grad in due course.

### **Rebecca Kuperberg – Graduate Welfare Officer**

Hello Council!

I finished up two programs right before our last Council meeting- Grad WelfCom and the Welfare and Well-being in Fieldwork and Research working group. Unfortunately, this will be my last term as Grad Welfare Officer, as I will be leaving Oxford this summer. Before I go, I will be writing up some grad-specific provisions and ideas for fresher's week and finishing up continuing projects. Please be in touch with any questions!

Thank you,  
Rebecca



### **Katy Haigh – Health and Welfare Officer**

Dear Council,

I have met with Ali concerning completing my manifesto points and aiding him in finishing his own manifesto points. As I am concentrating on academic work currently, we have decided to work on finishing our projects during 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> week ready to be put into action/printed for Michaelmas 2016.

Due to time constraints and lack of cooperation from my own college I have struggled to organise a WelfCom: if I have been unsuccessful in securing a place and time to put this event on in 8<sup>th</sup> week, I will instead organise the event for the beginning of Michaelmas Term, with a theme surrounding thanking welfare officers for their work and opening up the opportunity to speak with them about advice they would like to pass on to the new officers in Hilary term, from which I intend to create a document for all new officers to access to help them during their first term in their roles.

Hope everyone has a good summer! – Katy

### **Meera Sachdeva – International Students' Officer**

The past couple of weeks have been focussed on ensuring the International Freshers motion gets passed through as many JCRs as possible, and then ensuring that meetings are set up between the international reps and the Domestic Bursar of the college. I am currently in the process of drafting a template proposal which the international reps can give to their Domestic Bursars when they meet them. We have had some success in some colleges with the date of arrival for international freshers being pushed back by a couple of days, but in some colleges, due to conference arrangements, this has not happened. Of course, this is an ongoing process which will have to take place over multiple years. I am also in the process of drafting a survey to be sent out to international students on what changes they would like to see so that I can set new goals for Michaelmas 2016.

### **Ronak Patel – Disabled Students' Officer**

Over the last two weeks I have been mainly working with reps to get feedback on the initiatives I am planning for next term: lobbying colleges for accessibility audits and conducting feedback sessions for disabled students. Some useful suggestions will also be added to the projects such as having an online feedback survey. The material for these two projects should be complete over the holidays after working with the disability advisory services and reps and ready to be implemented in Michaelmas.

### **Holly Roy – Student Parents and Carers' Officer**

- We had a very fun and successful student parents BBQ at Green-Templeton College from 2pm-5pm on 28<sup>th</sup> April. It was very well attended with many families and children, lovely food and lots of games. I am grateful to OUSU for their support in funding this event.
- I am hoping to send a general email to department heads about maternity leave funding before the end of term.

## **Tuesday Doherty – Womens’ Campaign Officer**

Since our last report, WomCam has held a film screening of ‘10 things I hate about you’ at Queen’s college which had approximately 50 attendees. We also held an Open Mic Poetry evening with English Society which was hugely successful. We had lots of new people participating and many reading their own poetry which they have since submitted to our zine. This was one of two events we held in 6th week, the other was a BME self-care event organised by our WOC rep and our BME working chair leader. This provided a space for BME students to meet and discuss their experiences at Oxford and proved to be a very positive and useful event that we plan to recreate next term. This week WomCam have organised a cross-campaign social with OSDC, CRAE and the LGBTQ campaign. This will help us to look at what has gone well this term, what we can improve and how to collaborate more amongst campaigns in the future. This is the first event that has combined all of the campaign committees and we feel that it will be hugely beneficial in improving our effectiveness as well as providing support to the students in these committees who do a huge amount of work alongside their degrees.

Our new committee members have been asked to submit their plans for next term by the end of 8th week so that we can monitor and plan what we want to do as a committee. Our weekly committee meetings have been consistently well-attended and we have discussed our term card for Michaelmas which is looking very positive. We are hoping to hold a WomCam club night with proceeds going to charity, to set up a large speaker event with the other campaigns and to launch our new zine in time for the Fresher’s stall. We are very excited by the amount of commitment and enthusiasm there is within WomCam at the moment.

## **OUSU Campaigns**

### **Jacob Vivian – On Your Doorstep**

The main focus of Trinity term for the On Your Doorstep campaign has been the planning for Homeless Awareness Week. Several ideas for the week have been brainstormed, and below is the current plan for the week.

- October 24, Monday
  - ‘Not Just Homeless’ Screening
  - Homeless Outreach Taster Session
- October 25, Tuesday
  - ‘Not Just Homeless’ Screening
  - Homeless Outreach Taster Session
- October 26, Wednesday
  - Potential Panel—‘Should we help the homeless?’
  - OR lecture on historical attitudes to homelessness
  - Homeless Outreach taster session
- October 27, Thursday
  - Homeless Discussion Evening
    - Sit people in groups to talk about homelessness and find out more
  - Homeless Outreach Taster Session
- October 28, Friday
  - Sleepout and Homeless Concert!!!
  - Homeless Outreach Taster Session

Aspire Oxford and several other homeless charities are planning to organise a huge sleepout and homeless concert fundraiser which will coincide with the OYD Homeless Awareness Week. OYD is looking to advertise the event heavily at the start of Michaelmas 2016.

As well as Homeless Awareness Week planning, OYD organised an event in 3<sup>rd</sup> week called, 'Word on the Street'. This involved having one man who is currently homeless, Neo, and a second person, Alistair, who was homeless in the past, sitting on a panel to talk about their experiences and answer questions about homelessness. Neo is also a musician and he played several of his songs. Afterwards, as a campaign we discussed the need to be better organised with future events, as we left things quite last minute and therefore didn't advertise very well, which is partly why only around 10 people came. However, those who came enjoyed the event.

Further to this, OYD has looked into several campaigning ideas this term. We created a template JCR Sleeping Bag/Matt motion. This motion would set up a system where college members can hire a sleeping bag or matt for a night if they have a friend to stay. The hire price is £3.50 a night (the same price as the Night Shelter, O'Hanlon House). Several colleges have presented the motion to their JCRs including Brasenose, Wadham, Merton, and St. Hughs. We're also currently looking into seeing whether College Ball Committees can donate leftover non-alcoholic drinks to homeless outreach groups. A campaigning idea we looked into which wasn't successful was getting colleges to donate their leftover meals to homeless people. We're also in the process of designing a newsletter for the term to send to our mailing list, so those who don't get involved directly can see what we've been up to.

Streets of Oxford, which we set up last term, has unfortunately, due to the busyness of exam term, been unable to present a story as often as it would've liked. However, it has managed to put out a couple stories, and its Facebook page is now up to 275 likes.

Finally, a meeting was held between The Hub, OUSU, OYD, and HAG looking further into how OYD and HAG can cooperate and coordinate more closely. The meeting was very helpful, and OYD and HAG will be looking to meet in 8<sup>th</sup> week to coordinate activities, particularly in regards to Homeless Awareness Week in Michaelmas.

Jacob Vivian—Chair of On Your Doorstep campaign

### **Tiana Dias, Olivia Rohll and Emmeline Skinner Cassidy – It Happens Here**

Since Trinity term is exam term for many, we have had a quieter term as quite a few of the committee have been busy with exams. We have been focusing on training sessions and have run first response training sessions in several different colleges. We have also been planning for next term; having been inspired by the Lad Culture Symposium organised by Lucy and Becky, we are hoping to put on a panel discussion about how sexual violence and lad culture intersect as well as running an event about disabilities and sexual violence.

### **Farheen Ahmed – Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality (CRAE)**

CRAE events/co-hosted events this term:

- Weekly CRAE meetings
- End of term CRAE social, done in collaboration with other campaigns, such as WomCam, LGBTQ-cam and OSDC.
- Raising awareness about (and campaigning in) the NUS referendum
- Will be running facilitator training for Race 101 workshop

CRAE expenditures (to be confirmed with Ali, asap)

- End of Term CRAE Social - £50
- Printing Documentation for CRAE facilitator training - £50

### **Rizwana Rashid – STUDENTSplus**

1. Sunday 13 th March, In collaboration with the Oxford Brazilian Society, participated in Brazilian Feijoada Sunday Brunch on 13 th March, 1:30- 5 pm in St. Peter's hall, Wolvercote, OX2 8 AQ.

2. Garden brunch

Details of Event Venue : Summertown House Common Room & Garden

Date : 28th May 2016

Time : 1130am - 130pm

Participants : ~ 85 students (families-mainly postgraduate) & 15 young children

Main Organizer : OUSU StudentsPLUS Co-organizer : Oxford University Islamic Society-Graduate Chapter (OUISoc)

Report :

The event is the main social event of OUSU StudentsPLUS for TT 2016, and was gladly joint-organised by the Graduate Chapter of Oxford University Islamic Society (OUISoc). Both partners were responsible to promote the event through their members by mail and society's Facebook page. Booking of venue, logistic and setting up of the venue and event was done by the representative of OUISoc. The event was running successfully and participation from the students were very encouraging especially involvement of students with spouse and families. We are yet to be able to attract the minority number of mature undergraduate students in this event, possibly due to the timing (exam week). Nonetheless, the committee do believe the time and venue selected was the best to cater for a larger StudentsPLUS community. Feedback from participants were very positive and numbers had expressed interest on similar event. It had successfully achieved its main goals to allow interaction both professionally among students and supports to their spouses and families.

### **Henriette Willberg – Living Wage Campaign**

This term we have really focused on recruitment so we can have a strong team to start next year and get as many papers through Governing Bodies as possible. We designed flyers and posters and have distributed them in colleges we have chosen to target. We also have got new members from an email recruitment drive. We have been in contact with JCR presidents who are preparing to present papers to

governing body at the end of this term and helped to review them and provide advice. We are looking forward to hosting another open Living Wage workshop next week. We have various creative projects underway, including a photography series/exhibition and a short documentary on the Living Wage. Finally, we have been planning our freshers fair stall in anticipation of October.

### **Marcelo Gennari de Nascimento – International Students' Campaign**

The International Students Campaign now is focusing in the future. We are committed about not repeating the same error as last year and do a good job in Fresher's Fair and Michaelmas term in general to engage as many international students freshers as possible.

Regarding this term, our main aim was in ensuring that the international student freshers could have the rights of coming to Oxford earlier given by the Colleges. Some international students come to Oxford in the -1<sup>st</sup> week because usually is more convenient to them, especially overseas students. Also we are working on making sure that they don't stay the entire week alone in their rooms, which is usual for someone who come here in the -1<sup>st</sup> week, when nobody is around.

We are also preparing for elections, which should take place in the middle of Michaelmas term, when there will be new students to run for our positions.