

OUSU Termly Reports Hilary 2001

President Kirsty McNeill

Finance and Funding Campaign: The finance and funding campaign has enjoyed a term of unprecedented success. Never before have so many contributed in so many different ways to so many different events. The term's fun began with what has now become "the naked protest", swiftly followed by the silent demonstration of Bod Quad, the eye-balling of Wadham's tutorial board and our grand finale: the biggest and best occupation Oxford has seen in years. The whole term has seen loads and loads of students proudly donning their gold ribbons, and the f and f committee itself has enjoyed its highest attendance that I can remember. By the time some of you read this, the National Shutdown will have happened. The First of March remained a focus for the whole campaign this term and I sincerely apologise to all those who were bored senseless by my 7th week hysteria. Thanks here are due to Will Straw, who single handedly organised hustings for our local parliamentary candidates for the Monday evening. My role in this event was limited to chairing and producing publicity. Thanks are due to almost everyone with regards to Divinity, but more of this later. The shutdown itself will be / has been marked by a demonstration, for which every single person who contributed in whatever capacity, as steward, publicist or participant should be thanked. Biggest thanks go to my two big chiefs: Rhod, for your control of the tightly trained corps, and Nick for accepting liability. My role in the funding campaign throughout the term has been varied, from knocking up leaflets to police liaison: I hope I've done justice to what is undoubtedly one of OUSU's most important committees. Thanks here could go on forever, so I'm going to keep it brief: Stuart for your invaluable press help- the campaign is finally getting the headlines it deserves. Steph- for your infinite patience with my ineptitude with anything with a plug on the end. Rachel, Philip, Will and Heenal- I don't think there has ever been a term like this before. You're stars. Thanks in particular should go to those who don't necessarily agree with everything we do but still take the time to put up posters, send e-mails etc. Most of all, every single person who has come to the committee this term. You rule.

OUSU reps: I have spoken at one meeting of OUSU Reps this term, and have sent them more paperwork than is healthy. I hope the bulging envelopes assure them they are valued rather than making them feel swamped. OUSU reps should feel free to get in contact with me directly if they have any concerns, but in the mean-time are to be thanked for all the work they do to keep us in check and take our message back to our membership.

NUS: my main NUS event this term has been the organisation of Presidential hustings. This unprecedented event was an undoubted success and the turn-out suggests that a great many people appreciated the chance to mandate their representatives in an informed way. Both candidates are to be thanked for their patience and good humour, both in the making of arrangements and the handling of questions from such a well-informed and tenacious audience. Biggest thanks for NUS stuff, however, has to go to Ed Swann, for his concerted efforts to revitalise the committee. It's been great having you on board.

Electoral processes etc: with my constitutional freak hat on, I made various changes to regs to make them suitable for this term's referendum. However, as ever, most of the tinkering with sacred texts was the work of the great Steve Moses. My role in the referendum was limited due to the efficiency and commitment of Steph and Steve. Steph's work in this area was nowhere determined by his job description, so everyone should buy him a drink to say a huge thank-you for always being willing to absorb work like this. I'm beginning to think he isn't really made of flesh and bone. Biggest thanks, however, have to go to Stuart, who took on one of OUSU's hardest jobs and gave Steve a proper run for his money. His competence was absolutely astounding- another man the world owes pints to.

CR/SU relations: I have regularly attended prescom, and (I hope) continually kept JCR officers in the loop with regard to what is going on in OUSU towers. One of the best things about OUSU this term is how it has reached out to places we have traditionally been distant from. By the end of this term, we will have an OUSU officer of one kind or another from almost every undergraduate college in the university.

Entz: OUSU Entz this term has revolved around Divinity. By the time of Council it will have occurred, and I feel reasonably confident in predicting that it will have been a success. Thanks here are due to everyone involved in f and f and everyone who helped sell tickets, staff the doors, plaster Oxford in publicity, stop my breakdown etc. Biggest thanks are due to Steph, Tom, Rachel and Will.

Press: I have had meetings and interviews with various media-types within and outside Oxford. I have sought at all times to represent the politics of Oxford students above my own and to present Oxford in a way that is both fair and favourable to our students. OUSU's internal Oxford press profile has been healthy and broadly fair. Externally, we have been pretty successful in

pushing our message, particularly around the time of the occupation. Many thanks are due here to Stuart Hudson, who managed our press profiling at the same time as being RO and managed to do both as well as someone who had nothing else to do.

Random other: I have given assistance to other officers as and when requested, handled all correspondence etc relating to SU in general, lifted boxes, etc etc etc.

University: I have attended Heb Council, as well as numerous informal meetings and have continued the work necessary for a very productive working relationship.

Thank-you: the people who didn't fit in elsewhere. The sabs, esp Rhod- I'll blame you if Lenin won't sit with me in heaven. Josh- I think this term would have done you proud. I certainly hope so. Ruth- for listening without judgement. It really is the best job in the world, you just catch me at bad times. Andrew- for doing lots of my job for none of my pay, and because you never see me before nightfall. All the people who take the time to say thank-you- the moral support is invaluable and very much appreciated.

Vice-President (Finance) Steph Gray

Publications

Oxford Student

The OxStu has done very well this term, remaining profitable and colourful, and scooping Cherwell rather convincingly on occasion. The commercial success of the publication is in no small part thanks to the quality of the writing and design within it: cheap jibes about tabloid tackiness aside, the Oxford Student has not had such success for several years, if at all, and I offer my thanks and respect to the unpaid team who put it together each week, especially Mark Moulding & Jake Ellwood, but also their Deputies Mark Coates, Clara Wooller and the phenomenally-dedicated Martin Sainsbury.

Web Site

Though this has inexcusably been allowed to slip, I can assure Council that the foundations are very much in place, and construction work on the restructured www.ousu.org site will proceed very quickly over 8th Week and the Easter Vacation. Smaller scale web projects have been launched this term, though, with the new Childcare site up and running at www.childcareguide.org.uk, and a new site at www.livingoutguide.com for, well, no prizes...

Careers Handbooks

The Oxford and Cambridge joint brand had its best year yet in 2000, and the new Law Careers Handbook has further cemented this. Not only are our guides money-making, but they are among the most useful for Oxford's students, and for this reason, are endorsed and receive the editorial support of the Careers Services.

Others

I have tried to offer support to other student publications in terms of use of OUSU facilities and publishing advice. The Oxbridge Traveller will come out this term, thanks partly to OUSU's support in this way, and we have also assisted Margin magazine, FOX, and a number of college-based publications.

Finances

The Amended Budget is coming to Council in 7th Week, and outlines my modifications to the predictions my predecessor made in his Budget of Trinity 2000. The headline news is extremely good: our income from publications this year has exceeded expectations by a considerable margin, and I am in a fortunate position of being able to confidently predict a useful surplus for the year, and spend some of our unexpected bonus on capital and our core campaigning work.

The Finance Office in OUSU is now increasingly computerised, with two major systems now fully rolled-out to administer subscriptions and day-to-day budgeting. I am delighted that this has been achieved, as it has been the long-term dream of many of my predecessors. From the point of view of our affiliated Common Rooms, it affords greater information and flexibility in paying subscriptions; from OUSU officers' point of view, it is the first step to devolved management of budgets, with people soon to be able to check the position of their committee's account instantly.

Services

OUSU Shop

The OSSL Trustees Report points to serious worries about the scale of the Shop's decline, and I have spent a lot of time this term trying to reverse this, in conjunction with John Potter, the Shop Manager, and the rest of the OSSL staff. The OUSU Shop has had a series of high-profile ads in the Oxford Student, which are now showing signs of success, and will hopefully be bolstered by a major free offer which will be promoted to local colleges at the start of Trinity term. The Shop offers tremendous value, and our statistics for returning customers are very impressive – conveying this message more widely must be a top priority now.

Another priority has been improving our service to Common Rooms who order in bulk – we now deliver much more frequently, offer early-bird discounts and price promises, and are soon to have a new-look catalogue and order form.

General

The graduate referendum has taken up a lot of time, in preparing a Joint Manifesto Booklet and generally administering a ballot-box election. The effort has been worthwhile, however, in that OUSU's graduate members will hopefully soon have a Vice-President-elect in whom they have confidence.

I have also tried to be available to help fellow sabs and other officers with their projects, and to this end, I have spent a lot of hours as OUSU's in-house designer, putting together materials for Divinity (A-one-night-occupation-of-Jongleurs-and-Bar-Risa™), the Libraries campaign, the National Shutdown and the wider Gold Ribbons campaign.

Thanks

Firstly to my full-time colleagues, chiefly **Tom**, whose success as Business Manager is clear from the Amended Budget – Tom works much harder than he should, and is always around to lend a hand. **Kirsty's** enthusiasm and elaborate schemes are exactly what OUSU should aspire to, and I've been proud to help them when I can. **Rhodri** definitely has the best job, but puts a lot into it (when not moaning) – the tank was very much his idea. **Jane's** achievement of the Nightbus and the success of her other campaigns must surely make her one of the all-time Great V-Ps (Women) Of Our Time. **Nick's** tweed-wearing conceals, as it does for so many of his fellow tweed-wearers, a passion for juvenile antics, and counters all those stereotypes about graduates. **Tony** too – I dread to think what he will try and spend his increased committee budgets on. OUSU is not an easy environment to work in, especially if there isn't light at the end of the tunnel, so I give my thanks to **Maria** and **John, Jenny, Sue** and **Barbara**, and the rest of the **staff**, who put up with more than is really fair. Also thanks to the **OxStu** team, (most of) the **Executive**, and the publications Editors who I've worked with this term.

Vice-President (Welfare)	Tony Lord
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Gosh. What a term. I feel that this term I have been finally able to get properly involved with my job (last term having been taken up almost entirely by elections in one way or another). Some successes this term have been

- a. finally getting Joint Committee with University Council to accept that the Student Adviser is a valuable post needed by oxford students.
- b. finally getting the Conference of Colleges to begin talking about the proposal from Disabilities Action for a College Disabilities Fund
- c. seeing the Living Out Guide go out to so many students at a time which is actually relevant rather than say April
- d. working on quite a lot of development stuff with the Student Advice Service
- d. finally tidying up my office.

I have dealt with a huge number of enquiries from students, most of which were to do with housing issues. My burden has been considerably reduced by Annily's work this term, which has been very useful indeed.. More of that in the debate on motions however... Kirsty, Rhodri and Annily organised a Listening Skills Training afternoon this term while I was ill, for which I am eternally grateful.

Welfare Committees and Groups Committees this term have been less active than usual, for various reasons. Anti-Racism organised a v cool Holocaust Memorial Day event in Wadham Chapel which was fantastically well attended. Thanks to Rebecca, Sacha, Vito, Kirsty, Catherine, Harriet and everyone else who helped with that. Health + Welfare has been v good with lots of interesting speakers, although the attendance by Welfare Officers has been less than brilliant, despite sending them sweets in the post. By the time you get this QR's Demo against Homophobia in Cornmarket should have happened. I hope it went well. Disabilities Action and Accommodation have been fairly quiet, but there are high hopes of lots of cool stuff next term.

All my manifesto commitments are "ongoing"

Vice-President (Women)	Jane Blumer
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Nightbus hurrah and hurray! The Goldman Sachs contract has been signed, the money been received, and, at the time of writing, a potential bus has been secured. Volunteer drivers and navigators have come forward and training is due to start soon. The huge support of JCRs and Colleges must be noted – without them, the project would still be as stagnant as it has been for the past four years. Although working on the nightbus has taken up a considerable part of my time, I feel it's entirely worth it as a demonstrable service that OUSU will provide for every student in the University. Thanks to Vito for helping me sort out stuff about international driving licenses.

Childcare is still a large part of my job, and likely to become more so once the University post of Childcare Project Officer finishes at the end of this academic year. Having Regan Early as the Exec Officer with responsibility for Childcare has made a great difference and her enthusiasm has really helped buoy up things like the Childminder network. Steph's input on the website has also been vital – ta.

Finals Forums have not been the success of previous years. In part, I suspect this is due to the fact that I didn't start organising them early enough, but that doesn't explain everything. Also, the attitude of some tutors needs sorting out. The ones that have been organised, however, are fab. Thanks very much to everyone who has helped.

Reclaim the Night was wikkid. Far bigger (about double the numbers) than any I've been to in previous years, which is really encouraging. The disparaging remarks made in the Cherwell were only to be expected, given the newspaper's continually offensive style to anything to do with Women's Committee - the March was a success in its new and improved format, whereby we made sure everyone was aware of our aims and we stopped at pertinent places.

The lack of Police presence is a potential problem for future years, as a) there were more people than before and b) we experienced demonstrable aggression towards those marching (i.e. an egg and a lightbulb). OUSU must address this problem before planning other marches or face paying upwards of £160 per officer in attendance.

Thanks so much to Leah, Jo and Megan for all your help!

Promoting Choice committee has been largely dormant this term, thanks in a large part to the utter ineffectualness of the Exec Officer. When a committee has only one co-chair, the Exec Officer is absolutely vital to its running and to ignore this is vastly irresponsible, prompting one to question whether the Officer really wants to do the job. Thanks to Mel anyway for trying.

Women's Committee is still the best OUSU Cttee, as far as I'm concerned. Again, the numbers attending have been greater than most I can remember, suggesting that the Co-Chairs are super (which they are) and that the cttee is relevant to a great many women in the University. The Feminism debates have been particularly interesting (for those who've never been, I've yet to see anyone completely agree with anybody else!). Here's to the next Monday evening in the Lamb and Flag. Thanks also to Vivienne for being a particularly conscientious Exec Officer.

NUS Hmmm. Not a great deal to say as I haven't done very much for them – mostly because I very rarely get any mailings at all, but also because OUSU isn't affiliated. It says in my job description that I should 'liaise' with the NUS – that doesn't mean run it or do its work! Although I recognise that the NUS has a lot to offer us, I'm not sure that the Women's Campaign is always relevant to Oxford.

I also *didn't* nominate anyone for the position of NUS Women's Officer, despite being asked. As a representative of all Oxford students, I think it would be highly inappropriate to act on behalf of all Oxford students in anything to do with the NUS – that's what College officers are for.

Casework has taken up a great deal of my time, on a wide variety of things. We really, really need Annily Campbell, the Student Advisor (who is one of the most approachable, sensible and sane people I have ever met – very refreshing for OUSU!), if the Sabbatical Officers who form the Student Advice Service are to do the rest of their job in any manageable way.

University Committees are still interesting, relevant and really important. This is one of the most important things that I do, although this is often unappreciated by other students as one of the many unseen parts of the job. **Childcare**, **Equal Opps** and **Harassment** are all really important things upon which to have student representation.

Other stuff well, there's always carrying boxes, answering phones, helping with photocopying etc. Fun, fun, fun. And after this, there's the joy of OUSU Council, Exec meetings, PCAP - usually an excellent demonstration of democracy in action, but sometimes, this term, hijacked by prats and thus wasting time which could well be spent doing other, sensible, worthwhile things. Oh dear.

Thanks to all who deserve it. **Sabs** because you make me laugh, and working with you is such fun. Won't next term rock? Some of **Exec** (especially Sonia and Regan) because you do such a worthwhile and necessary job which makes such a difference to our lives, but no thanks at all to those who have made it much harder for absolutely everyone else. **Maria** because you do everything for us. **Stuart** and **Catherine**, obviously. Cool and groovy people like Mel, Leah, Jo and the Women's Cttee stalwarts. Hurrah! People who make stuff fun, like Eleanor, Mel (again), Ruth, Ella, Abigail, Catherine, Catherine and people who think life isn't just about politics. Like Larry, John and Matt. Oh yes, and Tom, because he's not paid to have opinions (ha).

And, finally, **good luck** and **thanks** to everyone who's been involved with OUSU over the past few years and now have to face finals. We do appreciate everything you've done to try and improve the life of students in the University – now go off and have a life.

Vice-President (Graduates) Nick Smith
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University Committees

I continue to attend numerous University Committees and have added a number of others to my portfolio: University Council; Educational Policy and Standards Committee (plus a fortnightly briefing session with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Academic); Tutors for Graduates Committee (plus Steering Committee); University Club Management Committee; Joint Committee of University Council with Junior Members; Committee on Diversity and Equal Opportunity; Property Management Committee; Student Health and Welfare Committee; University Childcare Panel; Committee for the Management of the Language Centre.

There have been several significant developments for graduates this term. Applications were invited for the Vice-Chancellors' Fund which has been established to provide financial assistance to graduate students nearing the end of their research to enable them to avoid seeking paid employment at a critical stage in their work.

Discussions are now underway about structured opportunities for teaching and training, and an email survey on graduate teaching is currently being drafted in conjunction with the Institute for the Advancement of University Learning and will be distributed to graduates shortly. This survey will provide the raw data for a working party investigating possible graduate teaching assistantships. The Ostle Report on graduate provision within the collegiate university was presented to Educational Policy and Standards Committee. The report focussed on access to accommodation, academic working facilities, supervision, integrated administration, and other minimum kit requirements such as teaching opportunities and opportunities for increased contact between staff and students. The report was welcomed by the committee – particularly the suggestion that there be a shift from exhortation to decisive action in the form of a targeted and time-tabled progression of development - and will go to 9th week University Council for further discussion, and thence to Conference of Colleges, Divisions, and central administration. Initiatives concerning graduate feedback continue to be developed.

MCRs/GCRs

At the beginning of term I wrote to all college secretaries to ask if they had any new graduate arrivals. I subsequently distributed some 50 welcome packs (which included key OUSU publications) to new graduates. This was an initiative of my predecessor and one that I believe is of benefit to graduates who arrive one term into the academic year when there are few opportunities for orientation. The Libraries campaign received strong support from MCRs and my thanks again to those Presidents who discussed the motion at their meetings and communicated the outcome to me. The MCR Presidents Handbook is nearing completion.

Postgraduate Assembly

The Assembly met on Tuesday 20th February at the University Club. Reports were made on the following subjects: NETnet; *Memorandum of Guidance for Research Students and their Supervisors*; graduate reports; Vice-Chancellors' Fund; libraries campaign; US exchanges; Ostle report on graduate provision; college advisors; University. A motion on graduate teaching was passed and will be re-proposed to Council as it ultimately affects all students. The two graduate executive officer vacancies were filled and I look forward to working with Jen and Catherine on developing OUSU's services for graduates.

Divisional Boards

I met with the 3 of the graduate Divisional Board reps in 4th week to discuss matters that had arisen in the course of the term, and have had subsequent email contact with all 5. The structures of the Divisional Boards are slowly becoming more clear, although there seems to be a lack of structures for guiding and regulating graduate studies. This is a matter that EPSC is concerned to explore and rectify. The treatment of the issue of Junior member confidentiality by one Divisional Board remains a concern and clarification has been sought. One of the roles of the Divisional board representatives is to canvass 'grassroots' student opinion on certain matters within the Division under discussion at the Divisional Board level, and if they are obstructed from doing so then their role is redundant. The graduate rep. on the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Divisional Board consulted me about the proposal that he is submitting on "Careers Fair and Industry Interaction."

National Postgraduate Committee

I hosted an ordinary general meeting of the NPC at the University Club 17th-18th February. The event was well attended by some 25 delegates from a cross-section of higher education institutions. The agenda included final discussion of the strategic review, the new NPC logo and corporate identity, and postgraduate involvement in the NUS. On the Sunday morning there were interesting discussion workshops on the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) review of plagiarism policy (lead by Jude Carroll of Oxford Brookes University), the British Academy review of graduate studies in the humanities and social sciences, and the ESRC resources consultation.

Graduate Prospectus

The next meeting of the review board is scheduled for March 1st. The other week I met with Barbara Hott (University Offices) to discuss alternative structures for the subject / degree listings in the prospectus. It is hoped that a format that reflects the University's new divisional structure will prove to be more logical and digestible for applicants.

Other matters

I have dealt with enquiries from both prospective graduate applicants and current graduates. I have had a few cases to deal with, one of which is on-going. I am hoping to revive the OUSU Mature Students Committee and have attended meetings of OUSU International Students committee.

<h3>Vice-President (Access and Academic Affairs) Rhodri Thomas</h3>
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Well the end of another term and its all going far too fast! It has been a good term for both of my portfolios. The Academic Affairs Committee has run a highly successful campaign on library opening hours and I'm very confident that next year the Bodleian will not be closing early. Target Schools has been improved this year - the Handbook and Teachers' Guide look fantastic and our five events all look like being over subscribed. In general terms, I also think that Hilary has been a really great term for OUSU. The fees campaign has new momentum, the Living Out Guide has been produced, the Nightbus is soon to arrive, we've had Divinity I and Divinity II, two new Graduate Executive Officers, the new Mentoring Scheme and a re-affiliation!

Academic Affairs

Library Campaign

The Library Campaign took up a lot of time at the beginning of term. The posters and postcards were great and a lot of thanks must go to Steph for his time and for giving us the money! Thousands of the postcards were returned to Professor Slack and some tutors have even requested posters to keep! One of the most positive aspects of the campaign has been the involvement of JCRs and MCRs. Nearly all JCRs and MCRs passed motions opposing the proposal to close the Bodleian at 7 and many JCRs and MCRs took the issue to their Governing Bodies. We have also received a lot of support from academics in the University.

The decision on Opening Hours will not be taken until the budget allocation for next year has been made which will probably be in May. However, I have some positive things to report to Council. Firstly, photocopying charges in the central Bodleian will be reduced from 9p to 7p from April 1st. Secondly, the Radcliffe Camera will be opening on Saturday afternoon during Trinity Term. Thirdly, the RSL will be opening on Sunday during Trinity term. Fourthly, the History Faculty will be re-opening on Saturday afternoon during Trinity and finally the Social Studies Library will be open until 7 p.m. on weekdays during Trinity. Hopefully the budget allocation to the Libraries Committee will be generous enough to allow this extended library opening hours to be extended beyond Trinity.

Tutorial Feedback Forms

My work to increase publicity and the awareness of tutorial feedback forms has continued. This term I produced a report on tutorial feedback forms and information for Academic Affairs Representatives. Postcards for JCRs Reps to use have also been sent to all colleges. I have also raised the matter of improving the effectiveness of tutorial feedback forms with university officials and hopefully some progress will be made next term.

JCR Academic Affairs Reps

This term I've continued supporting JCR Academic Affairs Reps. I produced a Campaign Resource Pack which advertised their position and surgery hours. I've helped with casework and produced briefings on several different issues. I along with Kirsty also organised a Listening Skills Training event for all JCR/MCR Presidents, Welfare Reps, Womens Officers, Academic Affairs Reps and LGB Reps.

The Academic Affairs Committee

The JCR Academic Affairs Committee has had one of its most successful terms since my time in Oxford. We've seen improved attendance from JCR Officers and next term the focus will be on improving attendance from JCC Representatives. I've been lucky enough to have three excellent Co-Chairs who have more than made up for a lack of work that had been done by the Executive Officer. We have already begun planning our campaign for next term which is on a simplified Student Charter. Information will be brought to Council at the beginning of Trinity term. I would like to thank all the JCR Academic Affairs Officers for being so enthusiastic and hard working.

University Committees

Attending University Committees takes up a tremendous amount of time but it is also one of the most effective and important job that sabbaticals do. I have the pleasure of sitting on a large number of University Committees some of which are more interesting than others. I've attended 3 out of 4 meetings of Educational Policy Standards Committee where we have discussed examination results, college disciplinary procedures, tutorial feedback forms and the exam system. I've attended the Curators of the University Libraries Committee, the Bodleian Sub-Committee, the Libraries Users Sub-Committee and Joint Committee with University Council. I also sit on the Management of the Language Centre and the Management of the Careers Service but were not able to make it to the meetings due to clashed with Council and other meetings.

Access

Target Schools

The great bulk of my work on Access has been on Target Schools. This year we have the most wonderful Co-Chairs in the history of Target Schools along with the best Exec officer the committee has ever had! This year has seen an extension in the work of Target Schools and in increase in the number of schools who we work with. This extension has been supported by a £2,300 increase in the University grant to Target Schools.

We have organised one Open Day in Christ Church on the 12th March which is already full with nearly 200 students coming. Along with this we have organised two regional events for the first time - in Leeds and Belfast. The Leeds event will have around 150 students, the Belfast event has been an amazing success and we will have well over 200 students and teachers which is fantastic. A further two open days in New and St Peter's have been organised for Trinity.

On top of all the events the Committee sent the Target Schools Handbook and Teachers' Guide to every state school in the country at the beginning of term. This was achieved in record time thanks to the help of so many volunteers. We have received very positive feedback from schools and further education colleges.

The Visiting Scheme has been organised and I believe that more schools will be covered than in previous years. We have also organised a training event with the Admissions Office for all volunteers.

On top of the work in reaching out to schools we also have a completely new and updated web-site thanks to the work of Heenal Rajani our web manager. The Handbook and Teachers' Guide are on-line along with information about our events. We have also collected interview reports in all subjects that are on the web for prospective students. The interview reports will hopefully be extremely useful to prospective students and in breaking down negative stereotypes of Oxford.

Admissions Working Party

I am very proud of my work on the Admissions Working Party Report which will hopefully be accepted by Council. Many thanks to everyone who came to the meetings and who provided valuable input. Apologies for the delay in bringing the report to Council but hopefully now the access and admissions policies of OUSU will not need updating for some time.

National Mentoring Scheme

The Mentoring Scheme has taken up a tremendous amount of my time but it will be incredibly worthwhile both for the students taking part, the profile of OUSU and the University and most of all the schools who receive the help that they need. I have recruited 50 volunteers after sending out hundreds of emails, application forms, leaflets and letters who will work with 3-4 students over the course of a year. I organised two training events - one of which is taking place in 9th week. The Mentoring Scheme will continue for at least three years and I have already begun recruitment for next year. Press releases will also be sent out for the start of Trinity. Thanks to the JCR Presidents for relaying the information to their students.

Admissions Executive

I've attended meetings of the Admissions Executive this term and meeting have generally gone very well and lots of interesting issues have been discussed. I have also worked extensively with people from the University admissions office and the co-ordination between the University and Target Schools has increased considerably.

Thanks to:

All of the other sabs plus Tom - I think we have the first proper sabbatical team in OUSU history. Kirsty for always being on the right side and for being a real friend. Steph for listening to my constant moaning and being able to perform miracles. Nick for harassment, missing chairs, dancing - yes dancing! and lunacy - we no-conned the wrong person...! Still it makes **my** office fun! Jane, Tom and Tony for always being nice! Major thanks to Abigail who is just tremendously lovely and the most competent person I have ever worked with, and who is not allowed in my office until finals are over. Sonia for being utterly amazing. Thanks to all my Co-Chairs - Abi (again), Clare, Colette, Karim, Michael, Tom and Tom for being so reliable and great - you make my job

fun. Heenal for doing the web-site - thank you so much. Will and Rachel for making the fees protestors normal. Last but certainly not least thank you to Maria who does a tremendous amount of work for OUSU - I don't think we'd cope without you!

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Regan Early

Disabilities: This term has been mostly finishing where the last exec left off. Laura handed over to me really well giving me a file full of information on the central disability fund and facilities brief. We have had one meeting ,of cochairs, exec and welfare/disabilities reps, which although arranged at short notice was badly attended. I plan to endeavour to contact all welfare officers next term and find out how well equipped they are to answer questions from disabled students, what we can do for them, and hopefully bring our communications network up to date. My work for the rest of this term is to finish putting together the facilities briefing and think of an acronym for central disabilities fund!

Childcare: Sadly this portfolio has not gone very well this term, largely due to the lack of a childcare officer despite repeated advertising. We should be aiming to build up an email group for student parents, I hope to make contact through Domestic Bursars and welfare/women's reps with a mind to organising a support meeting early next term and co-ordinating the babysitting network.

Environment: Now this area is going really well. Sadly one of our incredibly hardworking co-chairs has resigned, Stephen Doughty, but Soojin is continuing the work admirably. Our major campaign is called '*Switch to green, your money back guarantee*' and the proposal was put together by Stephen before he left. It basically entails students cutting down their own energy wastage, through for example turning off their computer monitor, and turning down the thermostat by 1 degree. This will be promoted beginning in Michaelmas 2001 by means of a guide on a doorhanger currently being designed. (Here I have to thank Steph for raising our budget so this could be possible). We have also designed a logo for the committee, to be pioneered with this campaign. Awareness will initially be raised through an event in MT, hopefully a fair in the University Parks, which we are currently discussing with RAG and People and Planet. Ultimately the aim is to save the individual colleges money on their electricity bills, of which some or all can be visibly channelled back into students or college. Again here I have some enormous thanks to give to all the committee members who regularly attend, take the ideas back to their college, negotiate with DBs and work so hard behind the scenes.

The committee is still retaining its other major role, in continuing to monitor college recycling facilities, providing support for environment reps, spread information about new initiatives and generally being a fantastic generator of ideas. Amongst other things colleges are starting to buy recycled printer paper, recycling printer cartridges, using energy saving lightbulbs, collecting old and broken bikes to be serviced and sent to Africa. Ultimately a strong and rewarding committee.

OSSL: I have just become a trustee of OSSL, and attended one meeting. Steph is a much better authority than I, so I won't bother commenting apart from to mention the staff's commitment to making the shop an invaluable service to students, and amenity to new ideas (they don't even mind when I pester them for hours about buying recycled!!).

Other stuff: My first term on exec has been really busy and very interesting, as the cliché probably goes. Exec meetings are usually interesting with a diverse set of views represented, I do feel sorry however that we have not fully resolved the University Police issue as we were mandated, and hope that when the report is finished we can include our own recommendations of how our views and the University's may be reconciled. To finish, I have to say that George, you'll be a hard act to follow, hope we get someone just as committed but in slightly other ways. As always if anyone has any comments on my work, I'm more than happy to discuss them.

Heenal Rajani

My first term on Exec has been a very exciting one. I have greatly enjoyed my duties and the chance to be involved with the running of OUSU. I have updated the Target Schools web site - www.targetschools.com - which now features the Teachers' Guide and over 100 interview reports, and will continue to work on it over the Easter vac. The highlight of the term, however, has to be the Grants Not Fees campaign. Under three dynamic, keen and dedicated new co-chairs, Finance & Funding Committee has had greatly increased attendance this term. The occupation of the Bod was a fantastic success and put the fees issue back to the top of the agenda of Oxford students. Divinity promises to be similarly successful and it is surely a good thing that the campaign has reached out to more students this term, although one must hope that this does not mean that it will forever lose its radical edge.

Vivienne Raper (Mansfield)

If I were to summarise the problems I've experienced on the executive this term, it would generally come under the heading of 'e-mail, e-mail and more e-mail', 'e-mail 2: computers strike back', or even, 'e-mail the non-return – now it's personal'. It's a problem that has not only permeated my dealings on the executive, but also my private life and the only thing I can think of is that it's some sort of new fad, very much like tamagotchis or those metal skateboards. This is meant in the nicest possible way so I hope the persons concerned take it in the manner in which it was intended; a humorous dig – I've been guilty of the same crime upon occasions so I don't really have room to criticise that much. This coupled to the hitherto unappreciated difficulty of trying to arrange a convenient meeting time with more than one person seems to have consumed the term without achieving as much concrete as I would have liked. With respect to my duties – so far I've attended every OUSU Council, executive meeting, committee meeting and duty morning.

Women's Committee has been great this term: mainly due to the tireless efforts of Jane and our three brilliant co-Chairs as well as all the cool people who come. The executive role is mainly supportive and I've tried to help out as much as I can without stepping on anyone's feet as well as keeping up to date with everything the committee has been doing – this has mainly involved photocopying, attending stuff such as the 'What is Feminism?' forums and stewarding the Reclaim the Night march, which was absolutely great.

One World Committee

Due to advertising, One World Committee now has a new co-Chair, to help Catherine with all the hard work she does, who is wonderful, enthusiastic and linked to all the relevant groups in Oxford, which is what the committee has needed for a long time. By the time I took over all the hard work had been done on the One World handbook by the people who came before me, but I helped design posters and make sure that it was distributed and advertised. I also distributed fliers and posters for One World week. Ed brought the idea with him of liaising between One World and other related OUSU committees so we're hoping to hold a joint social event between the Environment, One World and Ethics committee in 7th week – I'm hoping closer relations come out of our association during the next two terms. Contacting One World societies in Oxford to advertise our services and raise awareness is presently in the pipeline.

Accommodation Committee

This committee suffered chronically from the e-mailing problem throughout the term and, without beating about the bush, has done absolutely nothing apart from get a new co-Chair, which was very much needed. I spent much of the first half of the term sending endless e-mails trying to find out exactly what had happened before with the committee and the second half of term wondering why no one was responding to me when all the replies were disappearing into the ether. It wasn't anyone's fault; it's just a combination of circumstances and it appears to be sorted now. There is a lot of stuff in the pipeline, which is really exciting – housing forums, liaising with letting agencies, accommodation mailing lists and better relations with college reps and committee meetings with speakers. I'm hoping that I can get some of this stuff up and running during the vacation along with our new co-Chair. If anyone wants me to explain what happened, I'm more than willing to.

Link Colleges

I've visited a Mansfield JCR meeting and a Queens JCR Committee meeting this term. If it's ok for me to do so I intend to go to a Keble and St. Catz JCR committee meeting either this term or early next term. I've been sending periodic messages to JCR Presidents to check to see if everything is fine OUSU-wise; if anyone in any of my 4 link colleges wants to contact me about anything at all OUSU-related, please, please do so.

In terms of people I'd like to thank – first all the brilliant and superb co-Chairs: it's great OUSU has so many enthusiastic, committed and generally nice people. I'd like to thank everyone on the executive in general and all the people I've encountered during the term whilst doing this – it's been fun. Everyone back home – my mum, my friend Teresa and my budgie for pretending that they're interested in student politics. All the people I regard as my friends, thanks for putting up with me and giving my life madness and sparkle – a special mention to my friend Adam K. for discussions on the palatability of celery and his constant, unrelenting and ultimately futile attempts to get me to chill out, calm down and be more laid back. To him I have one word to say – flibble! Finally, thanks go to everyone who voted for me – I doubt I can live up to whatever expectations you have of me, but I am going to continue to try my hardest to represent you and not let you down.

Vinothan Sangarapillai (St Hugh's)

My portfolios are OUSU reps committee, anti-racism committee and the NightBus. In addition, I have been undertaking general office and administrative duties – including taking minutes for OUSU Council and exec meetings on some occasions in the absence of the exec member designated secretary.

OUSU reps committee has benefited from having three enthusiastic and energetic co-chairs: Simon, Ruth and Dan. They have arranged for other OUSU officers to address OUSU reps committee in an attempt to give college OUSU reps a wider awareness of the whole range of OUSU activities. Karim Palant, Ac Af co-chair addressed us on Academic Affairs issues – particularly the campaign against the early closure of libraries. We will also be being addressed by Kirsty on the National Shutdown (which will have happened by the time of the Council this report will be delivered at!).

The co-chairs have also started to hold OUSU reps socials, so that OUSU reps can get to meet each other in an informal situation. They are being held on Wednesdays of odd weeks. Please do make an effort to come along if you are a JCR or an MCR OUSU rep.

Anti-racism committee saw the return of Sacha Ismail as a co-chair this term to join Rebecca Zerdin, who has held the job since Michaelmas. Rebecca did a great job in co-ordinating the plans for National Holocaust Memorial Day. Attendance of interested parties and Equal Ops and Minority Reps from colleges has been low this term. I would urge more of them to come along and voice their views and opinions at AR committee. We currently meet at 1:30 pm on Fridays of even weeks in Wadham. Please feel free to get in touch with me, Sacha or Rebecca for more info.

I have been assisting Jane with her attempts to get the NightBus scheme up and running. We now have some money coming through from Goldman Sachs in fulfilment of their pledge and have managed to find a location to park the bus. Hopefully, the scheme will be up and running next year and will provide a safe means for Oxford students to get home at night.

Sonia Sodha

Target Schools

This term has been extremely busy for Target Schools, and having four rather than three co-chairs has been invaluable. This term we have been working on a number of projects:

Visiting Scheme – we received a very good response this year, probably because of better advertising (OxStu advert, posters etc). We wrote to every undergraduate in the university asking them to take part, and have since allocated about 600 schools to volunteers to visit over the Easter. Several improvements were made to the scheme this year, namely asking for feedback so we know which schools were keen and which were reluctant to be visited, sending out a draft letter for volunteers to send to schools and running a training session taken by the University Admissions Office.

Publications – at the beginning of term we mailed the TS publications and open day invitations out to schools (3000 envelopes stuffed in record time...!)

Regional Events – this year it was decided to hold a couple of larger regional events rather than running a regional tour – it was hoped that our potential outreach would be greater this way. We've organised two events for the Easter vac, one in Belfast in the Waterfront Hall and one in Leeds. The days will comprise of talks and workshops by students and tutors.

Open Days – we will be holding three open days this year, and much time this term has been spent planning the Christchurch Open Day (9th week this term) and collating replies from schools.

Interview Reports – these were collated at the beginning of this term and Heenal Rajani has put them all up on the TS website.

Health and Welfare Group

This term has been spent organising speakers for meetings, including speakers on Nightline, exam stress, substance abuse and disabilities. Attendance hasn't been very high this term, so as well as doing weekly mailings/e-mails etc we've experimented with methods of increasing it (including pidging chocolate to H&W reps!)

Mature Students

I have met with the new co-chair, Jane MacTaggart and Nick Smith VP (Grads) to discuss what the committee can achieve next term – hopefully things will be kicking off then.

General Stuff

Attending Council, exec meetings and committee meetings.

Stewarded QR March and National Shutdown March

Link colleges – written to JCR Presidents/OUSU reps

Thanks

To Rhodri, Tom, Tom, Clare and Collette for their hard work and being fantastic to work with.

Tony, Colin, Dave and George, likewise.

The rest of the sabs

Heenal for doing a great job with the TS website, Maria and the rest of the OUSU office staff

Sean Sullivan (St Edmund Hall)

Committees

Ethics – Virtually immediately upon my receiving this portfolio council decided that it would be a good time to politicise the committee. The co-chairs of the committee have gone about using their new mandate with great enthusiasm. Although I personally believe their well meaning attempts to make the world a better and more fluffy place are not a service OUSU should be providing, I hope I have given them all the help and assistance that they have required of me.

The committee organised a speaker meeting on “Does your college share in murder?” which centred in on unethical investment by the university and its colleges. I understand this campaign will be continuing into next term.

Two meetings were held discussing the merits of banning Lonely Planet and this ban has now been passed by council. I’d like to thank the two co-chairs for the huge amount of work they have done this term and for tolerating my political views despite them provoking me in the matter.

International Students – One meeting of this committee has been held and it is currently in the process of appointing two more co-chairs. Work is afoot to discover the exact measure and method of payment different colleges require from international students and plans are being made to produce a booklet with helpful information for international students.

Again this committee has a wonderfully hard-working co-chair and I hope that JCR/MCR representatives will assist him in his task by letting the committee know whether they have international reps or people interested in the work going on.

Publications – I’m afraid I’ve never really understood what I’m meant to do with this portfolio. In anticipation for getting involved in publication type things I have taken up one of the Exec positions on the publications board.

Exec meetings

I have attended all Exec meetings. That should be all I have to say, but I will comment that I think it’s rather silly to ask exec to consider and issue reports on such big and important issues such as the university police and ultra vires law. This seems to me to be an irrelevance and a waste of time. Discussion regarding the former will be divided and unhelpful (especially whilst I’m still on Exec) and the latter, despite the presence of a couple of law students will be marked by a fumbling lack of knowledge. What is the point? I certainly don’t think Exec’s consideration and opinions on these matters is of any great importance except that we happen to consist of a number of members of council.

Duty mornings

Despite my expectations I have enjoyed my Monday morning stints in OUSU offices. I have shown great incompetence with the computer and telephone systems, but believe I have not done any permanent damage.

OUSU council

I have attended all OUSU councils. I think that it’s unfortunate that council has allowed our constitution to be twisted and on occasion ignored during this term, but like anyone involved in OUSU, I’m not bitter.

OUSU Officers

Business Manager Tom Mackrell

This term has proved to be another great success in the OUSU Business Centre, with the OxStu taking over 50% more advertising than the same term last year and taking more advertising than Cherwell in a number of issues. Much credit for this must go to the superbly professional standards to which it is written and published, and everyone on the team should be very proud of themselves.

The Oxford and Cambridge Law Careers Handbook should be the best ever, although its delay in publication is a bit of a shame. A lot of hard work has been put into it in by Steph here and my counterpart Tony in Cambridge, but it has become clear that this is not the best time to produce such a publication, and it will be moved to join the summer publications as of the next edition. The time taken with this infernal referendum has badly affected the production of this, so I would like to urge R. Adam Storch to head off back to the USA and never bother us again.

The Alternative Prospectus is due to be published again early next term and I am confident this can be made very profitable this time around. Getting to students before they even arrive at University or before a Gap year is something companies are very keen on, and I hope to be able to sell a lot of advertising on the back of this.

However, my main task now is to plan for the future and the crucial summer publications. OUSU relies a great deal on the success of these, and while the economy is buoyant their revenues should continue to grow. Steph and I had a meeting in Cambridge with our counterparts in CUSU and all seems to be progressing well with the all important Careers Handbook. Unless the Conservatives are elected in May I can see no reason why this shouldn't continue to prosper, but I am concerned about the weak foundations on which OUSU's finances lie. Were a recession to strike and the major Graduate Recruiters start to lay off staff rather than take them on, OUSU would be genuinely shafted. The best we can do is continue to Make Hay while the Sun Shines, but contingency plans should always be at the back of our minds.

The term ends on a positive note though, and I should just like to thank everyone I know and like in OUSU for making it such a fun place to work, especially Maria and the nice exec for making the first floor the coolest part of OUSU. Most of all though, I must thank that man Stephane for being the loveliest guy I've ever met, the best V-P Finance there's ever been, for putting up with my twittering all day without killing me.....and for keeping me company when we cruise for chicks in the OUSU van.

Press Officer Stuart Hudson

This term has been marked by an increasing descent into media whoredom on the part of sabbatical officers and many others involved in OUSU. We have been able to gain a considerable amount of positive publicity both within the student community in Oxford and also nationwide.

I have continued to send out regular press releases to the Oxford Student and the Cherwell focusing primarily on our activities relating to tuition fees and issues related to academic affairs e.g. the proposals to shut the Bodleian early on weekdays. This has resulted in a considerable amount of favourable coverage. We have worked with the University Press Office too at times such as the period following the death of a Teddy Hall student from Meningitis. The University asked us to co-ordinate the media response to this and both Tony Lord and I did a great deal of work to create calm and make students aware of issues related to Meningitis.

In a new initiative I have also begun to send our press releases to the Press Association as a matter of course. As a result we have had much more interest from the national media and BBC Online has covered several OUSU related stories. I have also prepared a new Guide to Speaking to the Press which will be issued to all members of Exec and JCR Presidents.

Our major piece of media work this term was related to the occupation of the Divinity Hall at the Bodleian Library. I issued a number of press releases to the education correspondents of almost all national newspapers and to television and radio stations too. This resulted in substantial media coverage of the occupation and both TV and radio reporters came to cover it. Kirsty, Regan and I plus a number of other students were interviewed by reporters. Therefore OUSU ended up getting a lot of positive media coverage following the occupation

I am satisfied with much of the press coverage we have had over the term and hope to continue with this work during Trinity.

Returning Officer Stuart Hudson

Introduction

I seem to be in the unique position for an RO, following a Referendum/Election, of not actually being terribly pissed off with anyone. At all. The Referendum ran relatively smoothly and without major incident. Therefore I can go through the details of my work this term without sounding off too much.

Background

OUSU Council in 1st and 3rd week passed Motions of No Confidence in Adam Storch by the required 2/3 majority and this had to be confirmed in a Referendum of Graduates in order to take effect.

At my request, **Catherine Wallis** (Keble) was appointed Deputy Returning Officer and I would like to thank her for her invaluable help and support over the past few weeks. My Elections Committee consisted of **Kirsty McNeill** (Balliol), **Steph Gray** (Pembroke), **Stephen Moses**, **Tom Mackrell**, **Vivienne Raper** (Mansfield), **Anatole Pang** (Wadham) and the wonderful **Mel Marshall** (Christ Church). In forming this Committee I wanted a group of people who could provide variously experience, reliability and balance. They all did everything that was asked of them and more.

The morning after 3rd week council I put up Notice of Poll and wrote to all MCR Presidents asking if they would like to request a ballot box. The Regulations initially stated that a minimum of 4 boxes should be used. This was amended to a minimum of 8 and

I decided in fact to give ballot boxes to all colleges requesting them, which brought the total number to 11. I also asked the MCR Presidents who requested boxes to appoint College Returning Officers. Catherine was responsible for liaison with CROs but I got the opportunity to meet and work with some of them and I should like to thank all of them for their help.

Registrations

The only two people allowed to register Campaigning Groups in a No Confidence Referendum are the Subject Officer (in this case Adam Storch) and the Proposer of the Motions of No Confidence (Ruth Hunt). The only valid Registration Form submitted by the deadline of 12 noon on Monday 12th February was from Ruth Hunt. I wrote to Adam Storch and spoke to him in person and by telephone to encourage him to register and I gave him copies of the Form, Constitution, Regulations and Standing Orders. However he chose not to register and so he was unable to campaign or to have an entry in the Joint Manifesto Booklet. I was disappointed by Mr Storch's decision not to register but it was entirely his decision.

Campaigning

Both Ms Hunt and Mr Storch are to be commended for their adherence to Regulations throughout the campaign. No complaints were submitted to me about the Yes campaign or about any illegal campaigning on behalf of Mr Storch.

Only Corpus Christi college requested a Hust and this took place on Tuesday 20th February. Ruth Hunt, as the only Registered Party, spoke and I would like to thank the Corpus CRO, **Duncan Sheehan**, and their MCR President, **Allie Binnie**, for helping to organise the event and for being so hospitable.

Steph provided great assistance with publication of the JMB and, in accordance with Regulations, I printed in the space allotted to the No campaign a statement to the effect that Mr Storch had decided not to submit an entry. I also issued a statement on 'Close of Registrations' making clear that Mr Storch's failure to register was due not to my invalidation of any attempt of his to register but instead to his own decision not to do so. I understand that Mr Storch complained to the Cherwell about this but because no complaint was sent to me I did not lose any sleep over the matter.

Polling

Polling itself ran relatively smoothly. My thanks go to **Steph Gray** for helping to seal and deliver ballot boxes in the morning. Voting took place in Corpus, Hertford, Keble, Linacre, Magdalen, Nuffield, Regents Park, St Peter's, St Hilda's, Univ and Wadham. I was called to St Hilda's by their CRO, **Patty Dark**, who had decided not to attend the sealing of ballot boxes in OUSU and who requested that I urgently go to St Hilda's to unseal and reseal the box in her presence before she would start polling. I did so in order to avoid any further fuss.

During the day several scrutineers mentioned their concerns that people had voted for 'Yes' or 'No' options without understanding the meaning of each option. I therefore authorised Catherine Wallis to issue a statement of clarification making clear the meaning and effect of 'Yes' and 'No' votes. This was the subject of a complaint by Adam Storch.

Polling closed at 8pm at which time there was a meeting of Tribunal which was inquorate and had no business to discuss.

I would like to thank **Steph Gray** and **Tom Mackrell** for collecting all the ballot boxes at the Close of Poll and for transporting them to Linacre for the Count. I was forced to invalidate all votes in the **St Hilda's** box because the scrutineer(s) had asked none of the voters to sign their names on the Voters' List. I declared the result by 10pm.

Complaints

I received only one complaint during the period of the Referendum and this was from Mr Storch relating to Miss Wallis's statement of clarification. The valid complaint was faxed to me in the OUSU office by the deadline of 90 minutes after Close of Poll and it listed a number of Regulations and Standing Orders allegedly broken by Miss Wallis. I ruled on Friday 23rd February at 1pm, dismissing Mr Storch's complaint in its entirety, and a copy of my ruling is on the OUSU noticeboard.

Conclusion

The Referendum had the potential to cause considerable problems both for me and for OUSU. In the event it ran remarkably smoothly and this is due in no small part to the excellent DRO and Elections Committee; I reiterate my thanks to them and also to the College Returning Officers. The post involved a lot of hard work and thankless tasks. I was working in OUSU five days a week in the run up to the Referendum but I still found the job both worthwhile and rewarding and my best wishes go to the next holder of the job.

Results In Full

Ballot Box		Yes votes	No votes	Spoilt/Blank/Void
Corpus	50	8	0	
Hertford		4	6	0
Keble		30	3	0
Linacre		71	12	2
Magdalen		29	10	1

Nuffield	47	2	1	
Regents Park	13		2	0
St Peter's	29		2	1
St Hilda's	INVALIDATED			
University	6		30	1
Wadham	36		7	0
TOTAL	315		82	6

OUSU COMMITTEES

Academic Affairs

Libraries

This has perhaps been the most successful term for Academic Affairs Committee in OUSU's history. The new sabbatical officer with responsibility for Access and Academic Affairs, Rhodri Thomas, along with the three co-chairs and energetic Academic Affairs and JCC representatives have organised an excellent campaign to maintain current library opening hours in the Bodleian Library and faculties. Our long term view as a Committee has been to campaign for longer opening hours in line with universities such as Manchester and UCL. However, faced with the serious possibility of shorter opening hours in subsequent academic years, the Committee has had to vigorously oppose such cuts, whilst soliciting support from the undergraduate, graduate and teaching bodies. By raising awareness early in term through the production and distribution of high quality posters as well as allowing students to voice their opposition by sending a postcard to the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Academic Services, over 8,000 students have been able to get involved in the campaign. 25 JCRs and 23 MCRs have passed motions supporting OUSU's campaign. We have also received unprecedented support from a significant number of tutors, and numerous Governing Body's have passed motions expressing reservations about such a move. Although no final decision has been taken, nor will be taken until April by the University Libraries Committee, we believe that we have good reason to be optimistic. More substantially, we have won concessions in opening hours in the Social Studies and History faculties. This academic year both faculties have reduced their opening hours with immediate effect. This trend will be reversed in Trinity Term. In addition, the Radcliffe Camera will open on Saturday afternoon in Trinity Term and the Radcliffe Science Library on Sundays. Photocopying charges will be reduced from 9 pence to 7 pence from 1st April, with permission granted to photocopy two pages at once in many cases. These changes are most welcome and student demand for such improvements must have played a role. The interests of Academic Affairs Committee has not been limited to Library campaigns, important though that is.

Tutorial Feedback Forms

Improving the experience of Oxford students has long been an aim of the Committee. To this end, we have sought to increase publicity and awareness of tutorial feedback forms, stressing the importance of completion of those forms, and suggesting formal structures by which feedback is responded to. This has been welcomed by Academic Affairs representatives, who have seemed to value best practice advice being shared at the Committee.

Examination Procedures

Other issues of concern have included tightening of examination procedures and the possibility of examination scripts being returned after a set period of time. Although we have written to the Pro-Vice Chancellor concerned for clarification on this matter, we are waiting to hear if there has been a change in policy. One area of concern which has arisen is the fact that students sitting examinations this year will no longer be able to phone for their results when they are published at Exam Schools because of the Data Protection Act. As no new procedures have been put in place as yet to deal with this problem, OUSU has been working with the University to provide some interim solution. One of the brightest ideas has come from one of the Committee co-chairs, Karim Palant, who has volunteered his mobile number as a student hotline for those worried about exam results. I think he may regret that offer...

Universal Disciplinary Code & Student Charter

Plans for next term are already underfoot. The Committee has discussed rewriting the Student Charter which was approved by Council in 1995 and this will be considered in further detail at the end of term before being brought to Council next term. In addition, a universal disciplinary code will hopefully be enforced in the near future after lengthy discussion.

Thanks

Considering the Committee meets only four times per term, it has achieved a phenomenal amount. This undoubtedly is due to the creation of a sabbatical officer who can lend much of his time and energy to the issues at hand. But the role itself would be of no use without a super competent person to take the role on. I know that all of the co-chairs and Academic Affairs

representatives would feel lost without Rhodri - his efficiency, support, dedication and kindness are unusual qualities to find in one so young. OUSU will only truly appreciate Rhodri's work once he has left; it is noticed though! Steph also deserves a special thank you for being so generous in his allocation of the budget - permitting us to run a highly successful campaign. Personally, I would like to thank Karim and Michael for being fantastic co-chairs and doing lots of the menial tasks. You're on your own next term.

Abigail Coates, Co-Chair Academic Affairs Committee

Finance & Funding

The F&F campaign has seen much change this term with three new co-chairs and a new executive officer. Action has been centred on continued support for non-payers, culminating in the occupation of the Great Divinity School, and the launch of the gold ribbons campaign. Gold ribbons were chosen as a symbol of awareness of the issues of fees and were launched at the public handing over of some non-payers cheques to the Registrar by seven gold naked men. Later in the term a week of protest began on Monday of 4th, with a sit down silent protest in the Bod Quad representing "speechlessness" at the Universities treatment of non-payers. By Wednesday, Wadham's Tutorial Board were interpreting Regan Early's 'suspension'. Over 100 students stood in the rain wearing black with gold ribbons outside, before deciding to occupy the Old Bodleian later that afternoon. Attention has now turned to the general election, while the campaign continues to support the two remaining non-payers. At the publication deadline the success of the Week of Action, culminating in the Divinity club night at Jongleurs, and the National Shutdown, was unknown, but was expected to be great.

Will Straw, Co-Chair F & F

International

Two meeting will have been held by the end of Hilary term. The first meeting took place on January 29th (Monday of 3rd week) and the second will be held on February 26th. The main issues discussed during the meetings were;

International students' fees with regard to payment by instalments.

Last term the International Committee conducted a survey on views that each individual Oxford college has on permitting their international students to pay their university and college fees by instalments. The survey also covered the values of overseas' college fee at different college. The committee has completed the data sheet on this survey and recognised various discrepancies between different college.

At the first meeting, the committee therefore decided that this data should be readily available for international applicants since this would reduce the chance of creating financial problems once students are accepted. There have been many suggestions regarding the ways of publicising this data including placing them on the OUSU web-site or the to-be-published International Booklet. In addition, the committee felt that some information should be provided for potential international applicants on this issue at the various open days.

Production of the International Booklet

At the first meeting the committee has decided to produce an international booklet which will contain essential information for international students at the university. This will be particularly useful for freshers who have not studied or live in the country prior to their university career. The main content of the booklet will be discussed in the next meeting (Monday of 7th week).

International Representatives for all JCRs and MCRs.

The committee decided that each JCR and MCR should be encouraged to send their representative(s) to the committee meeting. This will improve the efficiency of the committee and more importantly international students from every college can be readily informed of the present issues or campaigns that are being carried out by the committee. This will also encourage more involvement of international students within OUSU and enhanced their general welfare.

Appointment of new Co-Chairs.

The committee has decided that there was a need to appoint two further Co-chairs (only one at present) to enhance the efficiency of the committee. Two candidates have shown interest in this post and the committee will inform other representatives at next meeting (Monday 7th week) on these appointments.

Target Schools

This term has been a busy one for our committee, as we have been planning a number of different events and schemes, some of which will be taking place in ninth and tenth weeks of this term. Myself and Clare have been lucky enough to be joined by Tom Wainwright and Colette Hooper as Co-Chairs this term, replacing Thomas Mason who resigned at the end of Michaelmas. We would recommend to Exec that four co-chairs become a permanent feature for Target Schools Committee, as the amount of work is such that we are all constantly helping each other out with the day-to-day running of our various projects. This term these have been; the setting up of the schools visiting scheme, the planning of regional events in Leeds and Belfast and the co-ordination of three open days, with the most immediate being held at Christ Church in ninth week of the term. Details of our work on these are summarised below.

The Visiting Scheme

We pigeonholed every undergraduate asking for assistance with this, and received a large number of replies. All volunteers have now been allocated state schools around the country, and a training day will be held on Tuesday of seventh week for all volunteers. We have also asked for students to provide us with feedback, which we will be looking at and passing on to next year's committee.

The Regional Events

These will be held in Leeds, at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, and in Belfast, at the Waterfront Hall. Designed as day-long events for 100-200 people, we have chosen to organise these in preference to the Target Schools tour, which we have discontinued. It was felt that the tour was too time consuming, and took up too large a part of our budget, to be justifiable. We hope that both events will be very successful, and provide media coverage for Target Schools and OUSU.

The Open Days

This year we have introduced an extra open day (honouring Rhodri's manifesto!), bringing the total to three. The first will be held at Christ Church in ninth week of this term, and is already booked up with over 150 sixth-formers. Open days at New and St. Peters will be held in fifth and ninth week of Trinity term respectively. Despite the fact that this is some time away, we have already received a great response from schools. The planning for the days is going well, and we hope that these will be as successful as they have been in the past.

The Interview Reports

This is a new initiative, and one which we have introduced in response to reports that a private firm was selling interview reports over the internet. We felt this would give applicants from richer backgrounds a possible advantage in the interview process, and have consequently appealed for, and received over one hundred reports from current students. These are currently being put onto our website, which has also been updated.

And Finally...

All the Co-Chairs would like to say a very big thank you to Rhodri and Sonia, both of whom have worked incredibly hard to help make Target Schools a success. We are particularly grateful to Sonia for coming back for another year's work as Exec officer, and it is hard to imagine how previous co-chairs managed their work without a V-P for Access.

Tom Moran on behalf of the Target Schools Committee

Women's

Women's Committee has had an excellent term and has been delighted to welcome lots of new faces. Our theme has been Feminism, and to this end there have been a series of discussion on the meaning and implications of and constraints on Feminism, including the relationship of Feminism to socialism, to religions and to men! We invited men to attend these post-committee discussions, which provided some illuminating different angles, and was well-received by all concerned; keeping half an hour of Women Only space at the beginning was also valuable, however.

The annual Reclaim the Night march took place in 4th week, and was better attended than ever before, despite the distracting lure of the occupation. The event attracted over 60 students and a number of members of the public, men and women alike, as well as substantial coverage in the student press. Other campaigning includes writing to College bursaries on the occasion of the International Women's Strike to express our concern at the under-valuing of women's work and possible gender-bias in the payment of college staff.

Organising the Women's Cabaret has been another major project of the term. This showcase of Oxford women's talent is to be held on Thursday 8th week (8th March) in Corpus. The evidence from rehearsals is most encouraging and we hope lots of you will join us to celebrate the diversity and flair of female performers across the university. On display there will also be the fruits of

our exploration of re-claiming space for women in such a male-dominated environment, inspired by similar themes in “A Room of One’s Own” by Virginia Woolf. Come along to find out about the tailless cat.

We have also been involved with the Oxford Rape and Sexual Abuse Crisis centre, and were privileged to have one of their workers come and tell us about their work. The Eating Distress helpline is now up and running thanks in part to the help of many JCRs/MCRs/SUs who donated money, and on Tuesday the Town Hall hosted the launch of the Asian Women’s Helpline, another way in which Women’s Committee is continues to take an interest in women’s issues city-wide as well as within the University specifically.

Melanie Marshall, Christ Church, Women’s Committee Co-Chair