



termly reports to council

trinity term 2009

Lewis Iwu

President

Political Reform

In Michaelmas Term 2009 the Student Union voted for a set of proposals that would streamline the work of OUSU Council. A new committee structure is now in place which will see the details of policy discussed in policy committees, each with a specific remit for a particular policy area. These committees led by a Chair will report to OUSU council with a recommendation and if required a vote. I strongly believe that following this policy making model - a model used by the NUS and the University will make OUSU council more efficient, will ensure that we are not fleshing out policy in body with 200 plus representatives.

Structural Reform

My manifesto pledged to modernise the Student Union and the permanent staff who work behind the scenes to serve the students of Oxford are vital to this process. Having well-staffed Student Union ensures that the organisation can meet the demands of its student members and its external partners. A well staffed student union also ensures that Student officers can focus on representation and acting spokespeople for the students Oxford knowing that they have the logistical support to back them up. This year OUSU undertook the largest staffing restructuring in its History bringing continuity to two positions which were formally held by recently graduated students. We now have a dedicated publisher of the Oxford Student as well as a member of staff who can supervise the quality of the publications produced by the largest student publisher in Europe. Staffing restructuring is never easy but vital for the long term sustainability of the Student Union. The staff team heading into next year are experienced, committed, passionate and are incredibly friendly and I am pleased to say that the Student Union is heading in the right direction and finally after the reforms of this year will bring the professionalism and experience that it deserves.

The Fees Debate

This has been and will be one of the most complex policy debates the Student Union has been involved in. As an influential Student Union our voice is incredibly important on the national stage. Over the past couple of months the fees working group set up by OUSU Council have met to discuss the implications of different policies regarding the funding of higher education. We have now adopted a position that supports a graduate tax and I hope that this position will not only present a credible alternative to funding higher education but will also give us a seat at the table instead of being written off as idealists who are unable to grasp economic reality. I have also enjoyed working closely with the NUS in developing a specific graduate tax model which was launched yesterday.

What we now need as a highly public campaign that will highlight the injustices of the current system and the merits of ours. We need to not only engage students in our action but also students in secondary school and their parents as they will be directly affected. The important behind the scenes work has now been done. The hard job of lobbying and campaigning needs to begin in earnest.

The OUSU Premises

Getting a new student venue for OUSU was never going to be a one year project. We have however made major inroads. An OUSU working group this year looked at the key issues that would surround any move. Questions about size, about the presence of a café or a club and the desired location are all key question that have been discussed by the group. Furthermore the University has now made a commitment to move us to a more central, more prominent and more student friendly set of premises. I've met several times with the University group tasked with finding OUSU a venue - the deputy director of finance, the director of student

services and key people from the University estates team. We now have a shortlist in place with one particular property on George Street looking very promising.

The building is the former abacus centre building between STA travel and Old Orleans. It encompasses the entirety of the top floor which has just been refurbished. Internally there are no artificial walls so our ability to shape the two wings of the building to our needs is significant. The building has several opportunities to give OUSU more prominence - for instance it has a flagpole and the University have indicated that it would be a good idea to invest in a shop-like sign indicating that this is the OUSU building. It also seems that the University representatives are happy with this building (which important because they will pay the rent and associated costs with the premises) so it is my belief that it will be up to us in the end.

On June 23rd this group will reconvene alongside my successor to look at the option in further detail.

Grants from the University

Given the economic climate and the heavy strain on University expenditure securing funding commitments from the University was always going to be difficult. I attended a meeting of the University's planning and resource allocation committee earlier on in the year, a rare privilege not given to a student representative before and OUSU given the circumstance were fortunate to be able to get a guarantee that the University would maintain their spending commitments.

Relations with our Partners

The Student Union cannot operate in isolation and requires the co-operation of partners within and outside the University. This year has been a resounding success on this front. We have restored relationships which were once sour and we have fostered new and interesting partnerships.

Our relations with the University are incredibly healthy. We have seen students secure more representation from the University and perhaps more importantly more respect. We have managed to shape discourse within the University by not being constantly aggressive but by working within the system to achieve change. Through our good relations with the University we are able to get important numbers on the back of welfare cards. We have placed the movement of OUSU into new premises high on the University's agenda. We have used OUSU's submission to the audit process to force the University to seriously consider putting rent information within the University prospectus. On this note I want to mention how invaluable Keith Zimmerman and Gary Crocker have been this year. Both are ferociously intelligent and have the student interest at heart.

I will say on a slightly positive note that I have had concerns about JCC. A body that is quite important for the University and for OUSU seems to be filled with members of the University who have been incredibly rude and patronising or who seem to have very little idea of what OUSU actually does. This needs to change.

Our relationship with other student unions have vastly improved and we have a significant effort to increase our attendance at the meetings of the Aldwych group and NUS regional, extraordinary and annual conference.

With regards to student organisations within Oxford we can point to success. The Oxford Union and the Student Union have had difficult moments in their relationship over the past couple of years however I feel that this year has seen a marked improvement in our relationship with the Oxford Union. Rachel Cummings has worked closely with the Union is establishing and maintaining the Union's Women's officer and we have had several high profile RAG events within the Union. It is my belief that having good relations with the Oxford Union is mutually beneficial to both parties and can only be good for students. This is not to say that we should shy away from criticism where it is needed but that we should not define ourselves in opposition to the Oxford Union for the sake of doing so.

One of my manifesto promises was to work on finding students to work with in order to promote good club nights. This summer OUSU formed a partnership with Pulse to bring good quality nights, safe and cheap nights to Oxford. Putting forces together has been a success. Fresher's week saw OUSU-Pulse put on several events a night. This year our clubs have increased capacity significantly. I believe that we need to continue this partnership and work with Pulse in a much closer capacity.

Publicity

I think its really important that the OUSU executive are out and about meeting students both during the day and at night and I think this has been a big strength of this year's executive. Being out and about has given me the opportunity to talk to people about my job and the Student Union in general whilst also getting feedback from the student body. I am confident this will continue with next years team.

Unfortunately this year has seen a number of incidents occur within the University which does not portray the University in the best light to the general public. It is really important that the student body is seen to condemn such incidents if we take the widening participation agenda seriously.

Summary and the Future and Thanks

This has been a really enjoyable year. It has been a year where tough decisions have had to be made but whilst challenging it has been an incredibly useful journey. Being an officer a the Oxford University Student Union is both an honour and a unique experience which a recent graduate could not get anywhere else. I was surprised at the importance of people skills and people management both internally and externally and I think this is incredibly important in the role of President.

I believe that next year will build on the progress made this year and create an even stronger union. OUSU can expand into new areas such as helping societies and providing them with a service. We have made inroads with regards to selling the successes of the Student Union and we need even more of that in the future. The challenges posed by Charity Registration do exists but the new governance arrangement will be a good change not a negative one.

I've had the pleasure of working with an amazing executive. The rest of the sabbs have been a fresh of breath air and have been passionate, able, intelligent and have been fun to be around. I will certainly miss working with Rosanna, Rachel aka CJ, Paul, aka paul, Jack and Kaushal, I've has the pleasure of getting to know a lot of common room officers and I want to thank them for the great support they've shown over the past year. I also want to say a big thank you to my close friends who have stopped me from going insane this year, Emmert, Stuart, Arjun, Hannah, Charlotte, Marc, Corey, Chou Chou, Matthew, Jake and of course James Dray alongside my non-OUSU family.

I also realise that in student politics you meet people who are not so friendly to you - I wish you all the best of luck in the future, whatever the future holds for you. I also want to wish all of the candidates running next year good luck.

Finally I wish next year's team the best of luck it's a great experience and I'm sure Stefan will be a great President.

Farewell

Lewis Iwu
OUSU President 2008-2009

Rosanna McBeath Opportunities)	V-P	(Welfare	and	Equal
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Dear All,

I can't really believe that this is the last council report I'll be writing. It doesn't seem that long ago I was trying to figure out what to write in my first council report. It has been a crazy year and I want to thank all of you and everyone at OUSU from the other sabs, to the part-time exec, to the staff for making this such a great year. While part of me sad to go I know that I'm leaving my job in the very safe and capable hands of Dani. I know she is going to be absolutely fantastic and I wish her and the new team the best of luck.

Before I start looking at what I've been doing this term, I want to take a second and talk about one of the recurring issues I've seen this year. I think Oxford is a wonderful, diverse, and welcoming environment. There have however been several incidents this year that have shown Oxford in a frankly terrible light. I'm not going to focus on any one incident, but some times I feel as if I've travelled back in time to a society where racism, sexism, homophobia are not only tolerated, but encouraged. It seems that occasionally students at the university suffer from a terrible case of pack mentality, stopping people from speaking up when they should, and going along with disgusting behaviour all in the name of 'banter'. This term, it seems from my point of view, is being used to give some people a carte blanche to act in an appalling and offensive manner, whilst trying to make it all excusable because it is just a 'bit of banter' or 'a just a joke'. I for one do not find it funny. Nor am I suffering from a case of political correctness gone mad as has been claimed. Certain behaviour cannot be excused as just some students having a bit of a laugh, their behaviour is offensive to a lot of people, and they are creating a hostile environment, where students can be singled out due to reasons of race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. This really isn't acceptable. There is so much positive work happening in Oxford and so many good initiatives, which attitudes like these really hamper. I feel it is time that we all take a stand and say that we will not accept this. We need to collectively engage in a dialogue and look for a solution to the 'banter culture'. I hope you will all go back to your common rooms and discuss it there, and maybe we can all be the change we hope to see.

Rant over, apologies for it but it is my last chance to get it off my chest. So what have I been up to? Well, currently I am working on handover for Dani, and the new SAS sabs. It is going to be two crazy weeks I think. I am also tying up loose ends, chasing up case notes from other members, sorting out training for Lisa, etc.

On the 24th June (Wednesday of 9th week) I am running, in conjunction with the Equality and Diversity Unit, a cultural sensitivity training workshop. We hope to give common room officers the tools and training they need to take it back to their common rooms. It will be at 12.30 in the Dorfman Room at St Peters (Thanks Sanjay!) If you are interested please email me: welfare@ousu.org

We are planning an inter-collegiate welfare picnic for the end of 8th week. I will send you more information as we confirm plans! I am also looking for volunteers to test new condoms for vending machines. I have been sent samples and need machines to test them on to make sure they fit. If you are able to volunteer yours, please let me know!! I would also like feedback on prices. We have found a new brand to move to, but it is going to be more expensive than Safex, would this be problematic? I have also managed to get the cost of Durex reduced from £26.50 to £15.50. Hopefully we will continue to reduce the cost.

The college equality survey is moving into its final stage. The welfare officers have kindly volunteered to send the questions to their college, since we are getting such a poor response rate. We will be publishing a student survey next week, please encourage your common rooms to take part. I am hoping to have a report ready for first week council next term.

The review of disability provision in the university is going along well, if anyone would like any information on what is happening and how it is going, please get in contact. The Students With Disabilities Campaign is planning a huge launch event for next year, so watch this space!

I presented a paper to the Joint Consultative Committee with Student Members last week on the Student Advisor, and we got very positive feedback and support for the position. I want to thank Lisa for all of her amazing work this year, and hope the service continues to grow!

I think my report is probably long and ramble-y enough now, so please ask me any questions in council. There has been lots more going on!!! If anyone wants to get in touch outside of council, please drop me an email: welfare@ousu.org Oh before I go, I want to say a huge thanks to Karen for all her work for council this term, you would be surprised at the amount of hard work council is to organise, so thank you for being so amazing. I hope you all have a fantastic summer, and thanks again for all of your hard work this year!

Welfare love!

Rosanna xxx

Rachel Cummings

V-P (Women)

Past two weeks:

- Planning and writing handover
- Meeting Letisha Lunin about setting up a new Gender and Development society
- Meeting Eve Colpus about organising new seminars on Gender and History
- Set up meeting with new Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis centre representative
- Domestic Abuse workshop was very successful on Friday 5th June
- Attended Committee for Student Health and Welfare where discussing the new maternity/paternity/adoption/parental leave policy for students. Collecting data on student parents was recommended by the committee and the policy will now also apply to same sex couples (two wins for OUSU)
- New hustings code of practice has now been sent out and some colleges are in the process of ratifying it - it passed this week at St Peter's
- Helped the incoming sabs sort a meeting with prescom for today
- Held my last Tea and Toys event, and organised Enough!, the support group for people with disordered eating
- Was interviewed for a mini-documentary the Cherwell are making about women in Oxford
- Had lunch and meeting with the Senior Tutor at Hilda's to discuss the gender gap and finals forums
- Ran the Women's Graduate Study event in Balliol, which went really well with a big turnout
- Wrote a paper asking the University to organise Finals Forums rather than OUSU which will be presented to Gender Panel in 8th week
- Last Women's Officers meeting of term
- Ran another Public Speaking and Debating workshop, got more people on the maillist, the last one will be Monday of 8th week
- Met up with the President of Oxford Women in Business
- Wrote a report on OUSU's interaction with the 'outside world' - requested by a JCR president (if anyone would like to see the report which got sent out to OUSU reps and JCR presidents just let me know)
- WomCam: organised the education forum on secondary education for girls, Love Your Body Garden Party is being held tomorrow, Hilda's 2-5pm, two normal meetings and two committee meetings
- Other events: Feminist Book Group, PresCom meeting, Proctor's meeting, Joint Consultative Committee.

This term:

My main events/achievements of the term:

- The Women In Politics Access day

- Launching The Women Report
- Fortnightly Public Speaking and Debating Workshops
- Recruiting a new Enough co-ordinator
- Running the last 5 finals forums and taking a paper on study skills to Gender Panel
- A Women's Dinner for presidents of societies
- Ladyfest, the women's arts festival (although the credit for that goes to Lucy Edwards)
- Domestic Abuse workshop and getting Lisa trained to be on the County's Domestic Abuse Champions Network
- Producing a second round of posters, two lists of achievements and a report on OUSU with Publicity Committee

This year:

My priority has been to raise the profile of the Vice-President (Women) position, to show its importance and to demonstrate what can be achieved in the role. To that end, this year has been event heavy hoping this provides very visible achievements. I hope in the future many of these events will become standard practice which that the VP (Women) won't have to spend much time on, allowing her to pursue her own priorities and more University committee work. The links the job now has with other parties who can take on more of the organising should free up time for working within the University and focussing on other areas that need attention. The events which I've started this year and hope will become regulars:

- Tea and Toys, the fortnightly student parent event
- A graduate study event per term
- Elections training every term, using the established model and materials to take into common rooms
- A workshop on domestic abuse or sexual violence or other issues such as eating disorders, harassment every term and similar training with outside experts
- Women's Study Skills Sessions at the beginning of the year
- Women's Public Speaking and Debating Workshops
- A Women's dinner for Women's Officers
- The Student Parent Orientation at the beginning of the year
- A social event for presidents of the women societies (FEST, atalantas, OxWip, OxWib)

In addition, there were 9 finals forums this year - although efforts need to go into making the University organise them rather than OUSU that's a longer term battle. Next year I reckon Kat could easily organise between 15 and 20 (on the basis that most of the ones from this year won't take much effort to repeat, with the same tutors who now know what is involved and will be able to book the rooms, do publicity etc).

I hope the Women Report also becomes a regular feature of VP(Women) work, updated and expanded annually.

Areas which I haven't focussed on this year, and that need more work are:

- the women's sections of the website
- harassment
- the safety bus
- abortion rights
- working with Brookes and the NUS

This year, I've also really enjoyed getting involved in OUSU more broadly, so as a Vice-President separate from the women's remit. I can't stress enough how important a part of the work it is (to all those thinking of running) - you need to be interested in OUSU as an institution, student representation overall, as well as your portfolio. Over the year I've done VP work by:

- Sitting on OSSL board (latterly as Managing Director, yeahhh)
- Being on the Fees Working Party
- Starting up and running Publicity Committee
- Attending JCR and MCR PresCom, meetings like Post Graduate Assembly, Mature students drinks and doing some common room visits.

I hope people have found this and all the rest of the work useful. I've really enjoyed the year and would recommend being a sab.

Kaushal Vidyarthee

V-P (Graduates)

University Committees: - This term I had a significant number of committee meetings. Various issues were raised at these committees with notable progress. Some important issues among those are

- Graduate Scholarship Fund under the Development Campaign to boost the funding for graduate students
- More Graduate Degree Ceremonies after the end of exam targeting international students
- Poor DPhil completion rates and the University continuation fees
- Piloting of the Graduate Financial Guarantee System
- IT Uses support to the Clubs/Societies
- Tailor-made skills induction programme (subject specific) for all new graduate students

International Students' Campaign- The campaign organised one open meeting, two visa workshops and one international drinks' evening this term. However, the most important event of the term was the Oxford International Festival 2009. The Festival was hugely successful as we had more than 1200 visitors. More than 30 national and cultural societies participated in the event which focussed on cultural showcase, global food market and performances. The Campaign also made many changes in its Constitution, which was finally ratified by the Council. The committee secured 1500 pounds of sponsorship for the publication of its International Students' Handbook. They also launched the International Access Scheme Training Programme this term. A full committee for the year 2009-10 has been elected.

Mature Students' Campaign – This term we had two successful Drinks' and Dinner evening for mature students.

Student Advice Service: I've had some serious and complicated case-works relating to graduate academic life. The resource document for graduate academic works is under preparation stage.

Common Rooms- The MCR president's committee met twice this term and discussed many issues including poor DPhil completion rate, financial guarantees, rent increase, freshers' fair, academic support to graduate students in colleges. We also had our first ever Social PresCom this term.

Postgraduate Assembly: This term PGA was held on Tuesday of fourth week. The PGA review group submitted its report to the council. The group had suggested many changes in the constitution for the integration of the PGA with the incoming committee structure of the OUSU Council. A standing order change motion on PGA was presented to council for the first reading at the last council meeting.

This was my last termly council report as VP Graduates. I would take this opportunity to highlight key achievements of my sabbatical year which include:

- Reduction in number of gathered fields for application and application fee waiver for continuing graduate students
- Online Funding search, online fee calculator, Funding Forum, Graduate Financial Guarantees and Graduate Scholarship Fund
- Online Supervision reporting system and code of supervision
- Paper on college library opening hours and graduate spaces
- Student Written Submission for the institutional audit by the Quality Assurance Agency
- Central Teaching Registry and tailor-made Skills Induction Programme
- Graduate representation on divisional board
- Groupware Development Panel (new IT system for students and clubs) and Single-sign-on system
- First ever International Careers' Event in collaboration with the careers services
- Series of VISA Workshops for international students (new point based immigration system)
- Highly successful Oxford International Festival 2009 with more than 1200 visitors and 33 societies participating

- Establishing International Access Scheme (similar to Target Schools)
- Emphasis on Mature Students –series of drinks' and dinner evening every term
- Greater collaboration with national and cultural societies (setting up a Cult-Soc-PresCom)
- PGA Review Group Working Report

Paul Dwyer

V-P (Access & Academic Affairs)

And so here we are. My final council report. I know that you have all been reading them with great delight-drinking in each word and savouring it, so that it might sustain you through the long and arduous hours that council can provide. I imagine that when you have finished reading it through thrice, you will take it away, neatly folded so that it does not come to harm, in the hope that the days until the next passage becomes available pass by quickly and you can slake your thirst for all things access and academic in the fountain of my council report.

Firstly, I'm very sorry that I cannot be in council this week, in what is my last ever council. (And I promise it will be!) I have my brothers graduation to attend, which I cannot really miss (particularly as he came to mine!), but I hope to catch you all for a pint or two in the future.

Over the last year OUSU has experienced its fair share of ups and downs, the same as we see every year. When we are elected as sabbaticals we do so on platforms of changing the world, only to be brought back to reality when faced with the mundane day to day life of working in an office. That's not to say that I haven't enjoyed this year- far from it. This year has provided me with some incredible times, and I have no regrets at all in being a part of this institution.

Things to report from the last few weeks and the term in general:

This week saw me and Jack go along to the Aimhigher (Milton Keynes, Oxford and Buckinghamshire) conference, at the Weston Manor Hotel in Oxford. The idea of the conference was for us to talk about the Big Sister scheme that we have run over the past term, and to lead workshops outlining where it is we want to go in the future (or at least send Jonny and Eorann!). The event was a good chance for us to engage with the local community and show some of the work that we do to give back to the people around us, and I think we were very well received. A plane hit Jack pretty badly, but I managed to save the day and give him a bit of pep talk to see him through.

In Undergraduate Panel, one of the main issues for discussion was the use of resits, particularly when it comes to whether colleges can impose a mark higher than the overall pass mark at Prelims as part of disciplinary proceedings. As you can probably imagine (although I will spell it out anyway in case you can't!), the debate was pretty heated around this issue. I think it has been agreed in principle that there should be a standard pass mark for all exams (eg, they should all be 40, rather than most 40, with some at 30), and that any resits sat should be the same format as the original exams, but not much headway was made regarding the rights of colleges. This is an issue that will rage throughout the university for months to come, but it is worth having it on the radar. The issue will come to a head again in Education Committee, although more on the former points, rather than the college issue.

Myself and Kaushal met with Tara Jewell from the Student Communications team earlier this week, where we discussed changes that are coming up regarding Single-Sign On and the like. Basically, from Monday of 8th week, students will access their exam scripts not through the OSS system as was done previously (the area where they usually register), but instead through their Single Sign-On account (Herald/webmail to you and me). An email should have gone out to all students, and I will be following this up with my own email next week, if it is deemed to be needed. Also discussed were possible inroads when it comes to improving both the Graduate Supervision System and OxCort, so things are looking up ahead of next year!

The meeting of the Prospectus Advisory Group that I sat on last week was extremely productive. I have been pushing for a larger student input into the writing of the prospectus, and this is going to be taken into serious consideration over the next few months as the document is pieced together. My ultimate aim would be not to

need to produce an Alternative Prospectus in the future, as the Official Prospectus will be co-written by students and university staff.

At Admissions Executive last week I was given the chance to feed back about the Target Schools shadowing scheme. While I have talked further down about how awesome this programme was, it was a valuable chance for us to show the university the things that we are capable of, and the report was extremely well received. The committee has given us our support going in for next year, and so we are in a good position to try and expand in the future.

Target Schools ran an extremely successful recruitment event at Summer 8s, and signed up people in their thousands. If you haven't already been trained, then make sure you get on it. The summer is a great opportunity for us to carry out school visits, and as common room representatives, many of you will be in a great position to carry forth the word of Oxford and try and encourage students with their applications.

Particular highlights from the year as I see it:

The QAA institutional audit: a chance for us to have our say about what we think are the strengths and weaknesses of our university. Building on the work of last year's sabbatical team, we were able to put together a written submission that was over 20,000 words long, and which became a key part of the audit team's report on the university. The report will be released into the wild on the 24th July, after being reared in the sanctuary of confidentiality over the last few months. We are hoping that the report will soon adapt to its new public surroundings, and that you give it a read, as it will be well worth a look before it gets older and leaves for pastures anew.

With over 3000 students surveyed and spoken to, as well as having dedicated meetings with the audit team, it is issues such as this that OUSU surely proves its worth to any doubters. The institutional audit was very much my life for two months at the beginning of the year, and had we not had the time and the resources to dedicate to it, we would not have made the inroads that were managed.

The Target Schools Shadowing Scheme: Another real win for OUSU, although this time I cannot take the same share of the credit! The entire Target Schools committee poured their hearts into this scheme, so that over 100 students from schools who do not have a history of sending people to Oxford could have the chance to live a day in the life of an undergraduate. This was the first time that we have ever run such a scheme under the OUSU banner, and it could not have been more successful. Blizzards and wild tigers could not have kept the scheme from being successful (fortunately only the former of these tested us), and only one student ended up in Swansea.

Big Brother/Big Sister: Again another first for OUSU. With this scheme we are looking to provide mentors and positive role models to young people who are currently in care. The idea is that they provide a non-judgemental peer who the young people feel comfortable talking to, just for support and guidance through particularly important years in their lives. The scheme was very much in a pilot this term, and like any pilot it had it's teething troubles. Yet through good ol' fashioned trial and error, we worked through our mistakes and pushed ahead, making the programme a real success. In the next few days we will be holding a briefing session to talk about where the scheme might go from here, and so if you are interested in becoming more involved, or just want to know more, then please do drop me a line.

Exam Scripts- Ok, so as the OxStu pointed out, the university said no. But as the Oxstu failed to mention, this year was the first ever time the university seriously considered offering scripts back to students who had failed, as a method of feeding back. This is a huge step, and one that I hope the university will be taking in the very near future. It might not be universal access for all, but it is indeed a step in the right direction, and we shall see what the future holds for.

Although I see that Terminator: Salvation has made good headway at the box office, and although I concede that Star Trek was indeed a very good film, I have every faith that Transformers 2 will blow them both out of the water and see the franchise rightfully return to the top of the pile where it belongs.

Academic Feedback- This term saw my write a paper for senior tutors committee based around feedback for students from tutors and vice-versa. Due to various reasons, the working group will be meeting in 10th week,

but it is important that we managed to make the university recognise that these are serious issues that need to be addressed, and we welcome the steps that are being taken towards this aim.

Regional Conferences/School visits- This year has seen me visit a number of schools, as well as go on every single mainland regional conference. I believe that this is an important role for the VP Access and Academic Affairs to play, as it demonstrates to the outside world our commitment to widening participation. These visits have been one of the genuine highlights of my job, and I have been extremely lucky to have the opportunity to take part in them.

And so we have it ladies and gentlemen. My last report. This year has been a long one, but an enjoyable one, and it has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside most of you. To those who I have worked with directly, or who have been there to support me in my work, I thank you kindly. Particularly the other sab officers and Elena, who have had to deal with me and my stupidity more than most. To those who have doubted the work that OUSU does, I'm very sorry that we have not been able to see eye to eye at certain parts of this year. It is only a good thing that we as sabbaticals are held to account, and that OUSU is made as strong as can be, and so I welcome the work you are doing to make OUSU bigger and better. To those who don't care much for OUSU and who have been as destructive as possible this year, I'm sorry you didn't have anything better to do this year, while also being surprised that you read this far!

Jack Wellby Community)	V-P	(Charities	&
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- Finished the report on Common Room Charitable Giving. It is now available to affiliated common rooms for assistance in adopting the new structure it recommends. A lot of work has gone into this and it is hoped that some common rooms will adopt the recommended model from next year. There are also a range of recommendations regardless of whether your common room changes its donation procedure:

Recommendation 1:

All common rooms should pass a motion to ensure money is donated via battels each term.

Recommendation 2:

The minimum levy should be £5. Common rooms who currently have donations of less than £5 should propose a motion to increase this levy.

Recommendation 3:

Each policy should incorporate an opt-out system which should be advertised by the charities rep before the first battels bill of the term.

Recommendation 4:

Common rooms that consider charity motions in JCR/MCR meetings should set aside one meeting a term where charity motions can be brought. Emergency charity motions can only be brought in other meetings when the charity rep agrees to exceptional circumstances (for example an unforeseen circumstance renders a project desperate for funding) for a motion to be seen outside of the normal meeting.

Recommendation 5:

Regardless of the size of the charity fund there should be **no limits on the quantity a proposal requests** (up to a maximum of the amount in the fund!). All proposals should be considered critically and the common room members should decide where they want the money to go.

Recommendation 6:

All common rooms must have separate bank accounts for the common room and for charities. Ideally the charity rep should be a signatory on the charities account one other signatory on the committee on the account (recommend Treasurer). No money should be transferred between accounts.

Copies of the report in full are available at this meeting and I'm happy to talk anyone through this.

- RAG Summer Twist took place last Saturday and was a huge success raising over £1800 for RAG's chosen charities.

- RAG volunteers ran a stall at the Summer Eights rowing event.
- With the VP (AccAff) and Mireille Gomes (Student Mentor) I attended the 'Aim Higher Conference' to do two presentations on the 'Looked After Children: Big Brother/Big Sister Scheme' which OUSU has started this year. This went down very well and sparked much interest amongst the attendees.
- The OUSU Fairtrade Steering Group met for the first time to identify priorities for the Student Union in its quest to achieve FairTrade status. This application should be made over the summer. Minutes of this meeting are available on request.
- I attended the university's Environment Panel meeting as the Student Representative and we:
 - Discussed the universities contract with Grondon Recycling
 - Raised student concerns about the variable recycling facilities in Libraries and departments – this is being rectified.
 - Strongly endorsed the Departmental Energy Management Toolkit and suggested an edited version could be adopted by colleges.
 - Accepted a report arguing that the university should seek FairTrade status.
 - Presented a report on Environmental Management Systems.
 - Created a working group to explore how the university can improve its position in the Green League Table as published by 'People and Planet'.

Highlights of the term

- Organised a Refugee Forum on Tuesday in the Union with speakers including Lord John Krebs, Gustav Born and Katie Ghose.
- The University Socially Responsible Investment Review Committee met for the first time in 5th week and I attended. Being the first meeting time was spent outlining the remit of the committee and it was decided that minutes of the meetings will be made publicly available once ratified. The date of the next meeting has not been confirmed yet but hopefully it will fall during handover.
- Helped run 'Lights, Climate, Action' which was put on by the Environment and Ethics Committee in the Cellar last Wednesday. This was a huge success and got people engaged with environmental issues in a series of interesting ways.
- The RAG casino has been in action at St Peters' Ball and Keble Ball. Thanks to all the volunteers who have made this such a huge success. There are bookings for Linacre, Univ and Oriel.
- Worked hard to encourage and inform the student vote in the local and European elections which happened on the 4th June.
- Produced the OUSU/OxHub Memorandum of understanding which I strongly believe is a positive step towards improving the student experience in Oxford.

Analysis of the year

Representation: Representation is possibly the most important part of OUSU and the committees I represent students on make this role of utmost importance to the VP (Charities and Community). We have had a whole host of successes on Environment Panel and the Domestic Bursars Environment Committee. I was the sole student representative on the Socially Responsible Investment Committee and the next meeting is imminent. With the central university I have also sat on Rules Committee and Clubs Committee as well as meeting the Proctors (regularly), Richard Jarman and attending every JCCSM.

As well as this representation with the central university I have attended many local and area council meetings and had meeting with the head councillor and the Lord Mayor.

Supporting Common Rooms:

The weekly charity meetings (held in OUSU on a Monday) have attracted on average 30 elected charity/RAG reps from across Oxford. I hope these have been fruitful (people keep coming back after all) and I feel that this model can and should be implemented across everything that OUSU does.

The Report on Common Room Charitable Giving is available on request.

Beyond Profit Careers Fair a big success of Hilary was the careers fair I organised with the Hub and the Careers' Service. I am sure Eorann will be able to make this bigger and better.

Working with The Oxford Hub: The creation of The Oxford Hub has been a huge positive for Oxford University. The Hubs model is now spreading across the country continuing the success of the pilot scheme here. Working with the Hub has been a constant source of support and we have been able to help each other in many positive ways. Crucially we have worked hard to ensure there is no overlap between the roles with the VP (C&C) continuing to offer support to common rooms, representing students at a range of university level committees, representing students in the local community and coordinating societies such as RAG, campaigns such as E&E and new projects such as the successful 'Big Brother/Big Sister Scheme.

RAG: I'm delighted with the way RAG has gone this year. It was a top priority for me to sort out this society so that it does not rely on the VP (Charities and Community) but rather is student led. I am convinced that the committee structure we have set up this year will allow a far more autonomous campaign to run. There are currently 14 on the committee and plans are under-way to have a separate RAG Ball committee for an event in Michaelmas. The new system we have put in place for choosing charities to support is much better and allows direct comparisons between similar charities.

We have raised significantly more money this year for fantastic causes across Oxford and beyond. Successes have included 'Oxford's Got Talent'; 'LOST', 'Mr and Miss Oxford', 'Summer Twist'; 'RAG Blind Date', 'Speed Dating' and a whole host of other events including 8 RAIDS. The RAG casino has been a huge success with start-up costs of around £600 resulting in a profit so far of over £2000.

My thanks go to the Committee for Hilary and Michaelmas and also to the fantastic committee this term – you really made it a lot of fun. Special thanks go to Tom Haynes and Rachel Dedman who have presided over the society. I am more than confident that it will continue to go from strength to strength.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as Vice President (Charities and Community) and it will be difficult to leave it behind. I really hope I have done a good job – I've put a lot into it and got a heck of a lot out of it. It has been fantastic to work with the other sabbaticals, JCR/MCR presidents, common room representatives, university staff and other students. OUSU is a massively positive thing and it needs the support of those it is trying to help. It really is easy to criticise in general but that's why I have little respect for most journalists – people need to become part of solutions to problems not simply complain. I am very positive about the future of the VP (C&C) position and I hope that they continue to work closely with The Oxford Hub and expand the 'community' side of the role. RAG and E&E should not be the focus of the job. I wish Eorann and the other Sabs all the best – we all know you guys are going to do a great job.

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.”

Marian Wright Edelman

PART TIME OFFICERS

Jack Matthews Officer	Common	Room	Support
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And so another term draws to a close. But its been a busy and exciting one!

This term we have had a series of very interesting and useful OUSU Reps meetings. We have discussed many issues affecting common rooms, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OUSU Reps for their feedback and input throughout the term. Special thanks go to those OUSU Reps who are finishing their term of office; thank you for all your help, and best of luck in the future - but make sure you stay in touch!

I have also been continuing this term with the Sky TV campaign. This is a on going process, and we will need to tread carefully in what we do. I hope to have much more to say on this in the first council of Michaelmas.

Database Time - over the past few weeks I have been working with several JCR Presidents to put together ideas for a database holding all the information any common room officer could ever need, and ways of keeping that information up to date. I will continue with this and will hopefully have some options ready by Michaelmas.

Timing of Council - OUSU will never be the same again! Finally OUSU Council will be at a time when everyone has the choice to attend. I look forward to Michaelmas and all the scientists and graduates who I hope will turn up.

Looking to the future, I have had discussions with OUSU Reps on what OUSU will be doing in Freshers Week. Nothing is definite yet, but we hope to be holding events to encourage people to get involved, as well as visits to common rooms; if you're interested in someone from OUSU coming to your common room in Freshers Week to explain what we do and how people can get involved, please let me know.

Finally - if you have any ideas for a better OUSU, or any feedback, good or bad, please let me know - this is your student union, so tell us what YOU need!

Have a happy and enjoyable summer,

Jack Matthews
Common Room Support Officer
commonrooms@ousu.org

Daniel Lowe

Environment and Ethics Officer

Hi Council,

It's come to the end of the year and E&E have done fantastic work. Our flagship events include Lights, climate, Action which was more successful than anyone had hoped, and Green Week, in which it's estimated that about 300 people and 2kg of spinach (which is about 20 bags) took part. Both will be returning next year.

Perhaps the greatest developments are the council's new commingled recycling scheme, which has made recycling cheaper and easier for colleges, and greatly expanded the amounts recycled, and the university's demonstrated commitment to SRI, displayed through the inaugural meetings of the SRI review committee, something students have struggled for, for over seven years.

Exciting plans are afoot for a kitchen and garden waste collection scheme for colleges from the council, a new edition green league for the colleges and Fairtrade Status for the university and OUSU, so there's still lots to do. Right now we're winding down for the year with a help pack for common room reps on how to keep the big exodus from Oxford as low-impact as possible. Look out for swap-shops collection points for unwanted apparel and electronics and excess recycling.

We've also set up a Fairtrade steering group to work on OUSU's Fairtrade status. There's really nothing left for us to do other than apply, so with any luck my 1st week council report will be full of good news.

Lastly, the E&E committee elected its new chair, Mae Penner from Magdalen college, who will take up office at the end of 9th week.

And now the goodbyes:

Lewis, I don't think anyone will ever forget your contribution to the national press, I hope one day people will stop calling you Obama, and you can make your own name for yourself. Best of luck in Law school

Rosanna, the amount of hugs and Moo Moo's we've shared are astounding. I'll never forget you, your dancing or your very special poster (oil your hinge...). You better come back to the UK often.

Kaushal. The international students fair was amazing. By far the tastiest event we've had. Your tireless SAS work hasn't gone unnoticed!

Paul, if anyone should be a teacher, it's you. I don't know whether I'm more amazed that you were born in Acton or now live somewhere called Oswaldtwistle. In think we're all affirmed that Target Schools **is** awesome

Jack, you have done amazing things for RAG. It really is now a university-wide brand associated with great times and good things. Congratulations.

Rachel, where would we be without you? No one has worked harder this year than you and you deserve undying praise and an amazing year off in Africa. I'm certain that OUSU would be a very different place without you, and by no means better. Enjoy Kigali and all your other amazing sights. I won't say keep in touch, because I know you will.

Elena, my committees buddy!! It's so sad that you have to go early, who else will I walk to JCCSM with? Or for that matter OSSL board, exec, council, the Proctors or appointments board. Hopefully I'll be around when you get back and we can carry on living the high life of reading reams of budget papers. Enjoy France, Germany and above all Somese' and whenever I hear 'come what may' I'll think of you, and the hangover that followed the Moulin Rouge drinking game.