

OPBM REPORTS

HT17

Nikolay Koshikov, President

In accordance with Rule 14, I have:

- Been responsible for the general administration of the Society, subject to any direction of Standing Committee or the House.
- Been responsible for the composition of the Appointed Committee.
- Taken the Chair at all Business Meetings of the Society and of the Standing and Finance Committees.
- Decided the motions for debate, allocated the paper speeches, and been responsible for inviting guest speakers for my term in office.
- Ensured that all members of staff, as far as is possible under employment law of England and Wales, have conformed to the Rules, Standing Orders, and Special Schedules of the Society.

Debates and Speaker Meetings:

I spent 30 days during the Winter Vacation in the Society's buildings, inviting speakers for debates and speaker meetings in conjunction with my committee.

Invitations were issued via a number of different methods, including:

- Verbal communication (e.g. over the phone or in person).
- Email.
- Web form.
- Handwritten letter.

There has been a total of 2130 invitations issued (up to Wednesday 15 Feb. 17).

Please note that the list of all invitation issued in Hilary Term can be found on Society's main noticeboard.

Signed,



Nikolay Koshikov
President
Hilary Term 2017

Chris Zabilowicz, Librarian

Over the Christmas vacation, it was my responsibility to oversee invitations sent to those who would give individual addresses at the Oxford Union this term, with particular emphasis on 'Librarian speakers' (such as, actors, actresses, authors, sportspeople and musicians). To do this, I created a committee induction pack which members of elected and appointed committee could look through in order to gain an insight into how we send invitations. I was then cc'd into every invitation sent out, so that I could ensure no duplicate emails were sent out, and that invitations were followed up where appropriate. I also sent out my own invitations and follow ups.

During this term, given the nature of the short Christmas vacation, I have been working hard to ensure those in the term card as 'Date TBC' were eventually confirmed. I have also chaired every Library Committee meeting, and personally ensured the significant increase of membership of the committee through recommendations and announcements during debates. Finally, I also attended the Library Strategy Committee meeting during 5th week.

Henry Kitchen, Librarian-Elect

Throughout the vacation, I stayed for over three weeks performing a variety of duties. I organized a debate with Julian Kirk, on the motion: ‘This House Believes the West Treats Russia Unfairly’, confirming two speakers for that event – Sir Malcolm Rifkind and Sir Roderic Lyne. Whilst also doing fresh invitations for librarian speakers, I oversaw and performed work to do with the administrations of running a vacation committee, such as preparing lists for members of committees to blurb and invites on each day. Towards the end of the vacation, I worked with the rest of the Junior Offices on the perfection of the term card.

This term, I have been working with the President-Elect and Treasurer-Elect to begin putting in place plans for next term. Over the following weeks, on the 20th February 2017, I will discuss debate motions with next term’s officers, which speakers to invite and discussing any new ideas for events. Moreover, over the next few weeks, I will start fresh invitations, so that the committee is in the best position possible for the Easter Vacation.

List of People Invited;

Status	Subject	Speaker	Committee member	Type
No reply	Email	Mr Jack Lopresti MP	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Will Ferrell	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
No reply	Email	Mr Michael Omari	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
No reply	Email	Sir James Dyson CBE	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
No reply	Email	President George Bush	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
No reply	email	Her Excellency Maria Leonor Robredo	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
No reply	Email	Ms Aung San Suu Kyi	Mr Henry Kitchen	Debate - UN
No reply	Email	President Tsai Ing Wen	Mr Henry Kitchen	China Debate
No reply	Email	President Park Geun-hye	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
No reply	Email	Members of Twenty One Pilots	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
No reply	Email	Mr Jamie Carragher	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
Interested	Email	Ms Bonnie Tyler	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
No reply	Email	Mr Darcy Oake	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
Not this term	Email	Ms Petra Kvitová	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
No reply	Email	Members of Nickelback	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
No reply	Email	Mr Oladapo Oyebanjo	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
No reply	Email	Mr Jimmy Page OBE	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
Not this term	Email	Mr Ozzy Osbourne	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
No reply	Email	Mr Antonio Conte	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
Not this term	Email	Mr Gustavo Kuerten	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
No reply	Email	Mr Niki Lauda	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
Not this term	Email	Mr Ai Weiwei	Mr Henry Kitchen	China Debate
Not this term	Email	Ms Rebekah Brooks	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
Never ever	Email	Mr Simon Pegg	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite as individual speaker
No reply	Email	Mr Richard Shirreff	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia

Not this term	Email	Ms Nadezhda Tolokonnikova	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Sir Brian Fall	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Ms Maria Alekhina	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Hilary Benn MP	Mr Henry Kitchen	ISIS Debate Debate - EU Referendum Debate - No Con
No reply	Email	Sir Richard Shirreff	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr John Hamre	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Professor Stephen Cohen	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Governor Jon Huntsman	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Mikhail Fradkov	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Yuri Ushakov	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Sergey Lebedev	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Sir Adam Thomson	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Sergey Karaganov	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Ms Jessica Matthews	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
Interested	Email	Sir Malcolm Rifkind QC	Mr Henry Kitchen	China Debate Debate - No Con
Not this term	Email	Sir Rodric Braithwaite	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Tom Brake	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr George Galloway	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
Interested	Email	Sir Roderick Lyne	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr John Redwood MP	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Ms Ksenia Sobchak	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Andrew Murray	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Ben Chacko	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Viktor Khristenko	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Vladimir Posner	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Edward Lucas	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr David Clark	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Ms Tina Kandelaki	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Robert Griffiths	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Ewen Macaskill	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Sent through previous correspondence.	Ambassador Alexander Yakovenko	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Dame Anne Pringle	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mrs Diane James	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Dr Gregory Yavlinsky	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Mikhail Kasyanov	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Ambassador Igor Ivanov	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Lord George Robertson PC	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Baroness Catherine Ashton	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Sir Edward Leigh MP	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr William Burns	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Alain Juppé	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Mr Jack Straw	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Climate Change
Not this term	Email	Sir Bill Cash MP	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia
No reply	Email	Ms Ewa Kopacz	Mr Henry Kitchen	Invite to debate Debate - Russia

Will Barnes, Treasurer (Also on behalf of Development Committee & Partnership Officers)

Speakers and debates - vacation work

I worked with the President to organise the debates for the term, focusing on conceptual development (debate blurbs etc) and strategy. I also led on historical research to add anniversary events. I worked closely with the Librarian, President and Secretary on individual speakers, and coordinated our strategy for United States and Latin American politics, confirming Jay Carney, Khizr Khan, Robby Mook and Don Verrilli. A number of Obama cabinet figures are in the pipeline for next term, as well as several UK, European and Latin American political figures.

Treasury - vacation work

The Treasurer-Elect and I led on a variety of partnerships, working closely with our partnership officers, namely:

- (1) Financial sponsorship. Most financial sponsorship for the term was pursued by the President-Elect and Treasurer-Elect, to maintain continuity with MT16 and TT17 negotiations (an arrangement agreed in advance of the vacation). The Treasurer-Elect and I signed new contracts for several thousand pounds worth of sponsorship, in addition to that arranged by the President-Elect. The Treasurer-Elect arranged termcard sponsorship from Freshminds, while Milkround sponsored the 4th Week debate.
- (2) Treasurers' Treats. These were renewed where necessary, but not seen as a particular priority given their recent renegotiation over the Long Vacation.
- (3) Floor debate prizes. A fantastic selection of these were confirmed in collaboration with partnership officers and the Treasurer-Elect - please see the termcard for details.

Term work

It goes without saying that I have actively participated in the Standing, Finance, Access and Consultative Committees. In partnership with the LGBTQIA+ Officer, the Treasurer-Elect, the Librarian and the Standing Committee Delegate to Access Committee, I pursued the proposal to mark LGBT History Month with a rainbow flag, passing a formal policy decision and a new Standing Order to enact this. I was involved, as ever, with the ball, and with the logistics for a number of proposed speaker events, including working with the Secretary to facilitate the complex logistics of President Dilma Rousseff's visit (new date TBC) and managing the visit of Robby Mook.

It's been a privilege and a pleasure to work with this committee. I'm sure I've forgotten aspects of my work, but hopefully this gives a broad picture.

Laali Vadlamani, Treasurer-Elect

During the vacation, I assisted the Treasurer in directing the Partnership Officers, and contacting potential partners on behalf of the Society. I have succeeded in signing a new partnership agreement with the graduate recruitment company Freshminds.

I also worked on the Social Media Debate along with Mr Andrew Ng, securing a full set of speakers for both sides of the debate, and later gave a paper speech during the debate. Over the vacation I invited over 150 speakers, receiving confirmations from speakers such as AnnaLynne McCord, Bob Diamond Jr., and Mark Cuban, alongside my debate speakers. I worked alongside the other Officers, and the rest of committee, on several aspects of the development of the termcard.

During this term, I have assisted the CCC and the rest of committee in performing several logistical tasks, such as preparing the Chamber for the Ball. I also worked throughout the night of the Ball itself, performing several different duties – from at the Fireball shots bar, to the Silent Disco. During the last few weeks of term, I hope to help prepare for the term ahead, alongside the President-Elect, by chasing up on existing speaker leads, brainstorming potential debate motions, and helping co-ordinate a Partnership plan going forward.

Gui Cavalcanti, Secretary

Under Rule 22 (a) (i), I have kept the Business Minute Book up to date, writing the proceedings of Public Business and Private Business in Public Business Meetings and Private Business Meetings.

Under Rule 22 (a) (ii), I have kept minutes of Standing Committee in the Standing Committee Minute Book, as well as on the notice board and have circulated these by e-mail to all those eligible in TSC. I am preparing to send out an electronic copy all of ratified minutes from their tenure to the Office Secretary (currently vacant position) to be bound.

Under Rule 22 (b), I have chaired every single meeting of the Secretary's Committee this term on Monday's, following the meetings of the Consultative Committee.

Under Rule 22 (c), I have organized the following:

- Dante's Inferno Black-Tie Ball, which took place on Friday of 4th Week (10th February 2017). There were 614 tickets, which sold-out in a record-breaking 14 minutes. The previous sellout record for a ball at the Oxford Union was over 30 hours. I passed my budget in 0th Week TSC after recommendation of the Finance Committee, and I plan on passing the accounts on 6th Week TSC, which will show a significant positive contribution to the Society.
- Speakeasy Social on Friday of 3rd Week– whilst the Elected Member (Maan Al-Yasiri, *Brasenose College*), was responsible for organizing this event, I liaised with him and assisted him in the creation of the budget, the alcohol delivery, the set-up, devising the Rota for the seccies, and with general assistance on the night. It was again a very successful event that sold out in a few hours.
- Wine and Cheese Social, which will take place on Tuesday of 6th Week. At the time of this writing, there are less than 20 tickets (out of 180) still on sale which means that it is expected to sell out very soon. It is building up to be another very successful event, with over 10 different types of red wine, 10 different types of white wine, and 8 different types of cheese. Yum.
- Pub Quizzes – I have organized and conducted two Pub Quizzes thus far this term: one on Tuesday of 2nd Week and another on Wednesday of 5th Week. They were both extremely successful, with a packed-out Member's Bar and a satisfied House Manager.
 - o I am planning on hosting one final Pub Quiz this term on Friday of 6th Week.

Under Standing Order E13, I have produced a list of 'useful numbers' and circulated this as an attachment by e-mail on December 4th, 2016 at 3:02 PM.

Under Rule 3 B (b), I have interviewed the following candidates, all deemed successful and approved by the Standing Committee: Mrs. Brigitte Whitehead, Ms. Ingrid Heggli, Mr. Advait Gummaraju, and Mr. Jeremy Colson.

Under Rule 20 (e), I have provided information when requested to ensure the website is up to date.

Under Rule 30 (b) (ii) (2), I have selected with the Committee the 5 other voting members for the Wines & Spirits Committee, and approved their selection through the Standing Committee. I have not yet chaired any meetings, but plan on chairing one in 7th Week and one in 8th Week to comply with Rule 30 (b) (iv).

I have completed the number of Vacation Days required by my position in the Office of the Secretary. I was in the Oxford, U.K. completing vac days on the following time period:

- From December 4th, 2016 until Friday, 23rd December
- From January 3rd, 2017 until the beginning of Full Term on the 15th of January

In addition to completing my duties under the rules above, I have also worked and assisted on several other events this term. In particular, I have confirmed Director-General Uzumcu and Mrs Tawakkol Karman, had originally confirmed former President Dilam Rousseff, who has now postponed to Trinity, have confirmed Mr Kailash Satyarthi for Trinity Term, and am currently negotiating with several other potential speakers, names of which will not be disclosed.

Jack Symonds, Standing Committee

[This report was not submitted to the Returning Officer before the production of this report, and thus Mr Jack Symonds has been issued with a £10 fine]

Maan Al-Yasiri, Standing Committee

Over the vacation, I invited speakers for the Racism and Education Debate in 7th week, invited individual speakers and organised the Speakeasy Social for 180 guests in 3rd week which sold out in a few hours. Of all the emails I sent out for the debate, I confirmed Neil Carmichael MP and Tony Sewell. Of all my individual invitations, I confirmed Nadia Murad and Tariq Ali. The Speakeasy social made a positive contribution to the Society with a total income of £2,064.17 (ex. VAT) and £2,477 (inc. VAT) and a total expenditure of £1,746.24 (ex. VAT) and £1,976.73 (inc. VAT). During the term thus far, I helped with the first pub quiz of term by distributing and collecting answer sheets. I also helped with the Ball through various duties such as in the cloakroom and in the male toilets. I was also part of the supervising logistical team for the Speakeasy Social which included managing a small team of individuals on the Secretary's Committee as well as working behind the bar, picking up litter and so on. I also moved the lectern during two events this term. For the Speakeasy Social, I contacted Keep it Trill (music band), Kelly's Occasion's (chocolate fountain and fruit palm tree) among other bands who I decided not to go with in the end.

Melissa Hinkley, Standing Committee

Speakers and debates: Vacation: December–January 2016/7

During the vacation, I spent a considerable amount of time in the office, assisting with the invitations of individual speakers, and working on the LGBTQ debate. I was able to confirm speakers for this debate but due to changes in composition and a late change to the proposed date of the debate, they were unfortunately unable to attend. I worked in close contact with the LGBTQ officer in order to assure that the focus of the debate fitted with broader wishes from members of the LGBTQ community in Oxford. I also received interest from a number of individual speakers to speak in the upcoming Trinity term, so I intend to follow these up in due course.

Termtime: Hilary Term 2017

As a member of Standing committee, I am a vocal contributor to each meeting, helping to discuss the nuances of businesses such as YouTube comments on debate speakers' videos, and the raising of the LGBTQ flag in the Union building for LGBTQ history month. As the Standing delegate for the Library committee, I am committed to the library provisions and privileges for members here, providing an proposed purchase English Language and Literature booklist for this week's committee. I have facilitated a number of events, such as the Ball and the Speakeasy social, as well as chairing the Emergency debates in line with expectations of my position.

I have very much enjoyed being a part of the Standing committee, and am looking forward to continuing my work in this vein for the rest of the term.

Simon Jagoe, Standing Committee

Speakers and debates - vacation work

I worked as part of the committee on both debates and individual speaker events during the vacation period, primarily focusing on the LGBT debate which occurred in the first week of term and which I confirmed 6 speakers for (2 of whom eventually dropped out).

Here is a list of speakers I confirmed:

Emily Brothers

Nikki Sinclair

Scott Bixby

Asifia Lahore

Molly Moore (LGBTQ pres and student, but I made contact with her and sent her the message asking her if she would feel comfortable speaking)

Tim Ramsay (dropped out)

Bethany Black (dropped out)

These are all speakers for the LGBT debate.

Term work

I have actively participated in the Standing and Debate Select Committee. I regularly attended and contributed in both meetings, and for the latter, I minuted and noted motions. I also fulfilled my obligations as a member of the committee by working the Oxford Union Ball.

Edward Evans, Standing Committee

Over the Christmas vacation, I invited a range of speakers, both to give individual addresses and as speakers in debates. In particular, I was involved in organising the Religion debate of 4th week – I brought Nia Griffith MP, Mary Honeyball MEP, His Beatitude Fouad Twal, and confirmed Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor (who unfortunately had to withdraw).

Otherwise, I have continued to carry out my duties on Committee – being present at the meetings of Standing Committee, attending events, and working at the Ball. Later in term, once the Committee has been convened, I shall fulfil my duties as elected Standing representative to the Wine and Spirits Committee.

Harry Samuels, Chair of the Consultative Committee (Also on behalf of Logistics Officers)

The duties of the Chair of Consultative Committee are set out in Rule 20.

- (i) *They shall arrange the distribution of the term card at the start of the Term to resident and non-resident members who are still paying their facility fee.*

This was completed by me on Thursday of 1st Week, with the assistance of elected members of Committee. Termcard distribution was done in record time this year.

- (ii) *They shall produce publicity for events, to be distributed via Consultative Committee and College Secretaries. They shall maintain a list of College Secretaries.*

The position of college secretary has been deprecated, but I have ensured that events have been publicised at Consultative Committee.

- (iii) *They shall be the member of Standing Committee with responsibility for the Society's web-site, and shall appoint a Web Officer with the agreement of the President.*

I have worked with the President-elect and the Bursar in the upkeep of the Society's website.

- (iv) *They shall be the member of Standing Committee with responsibility for the Society's Archives, and shall appoint an Archivist with the agreement of the President*

I have worked with the Bursar to maintain the archives.

- (v) *They shall be the member of Standing Committee with responsibility for ensuring that the Society's rooms are set up by Secretary's Committee members prior to debates and speaker meetings, and shall ensure that any rooms so used are returned to their normal state after the event is concluded.*

Rooms have been set up and cleared away efficiently by members of Secretary's Committee for every event.

- (vi) *They shall chair Consultative Committee, and bring any matters of concern amongst members of Consultative Committee to the attention of Standing Committee. They shall post the title of any Emergency Debate Motion on the Notice board by noon on the day following the meeting of Standing Committee at which it was approved.*

I have chaired Consultative Committee and brought matters of concern as necessary. I have ensured that the Emergency Debate Motions have been posted by my Secretary.

- (vii) *They shall produce the Order Paper for debates on the President's instructions, select Tellers for Debates, and post the results of any Emergency Debate and the debate held in Public Business on the Society's notice board by noon on the day after the Debate.*

The production of Order Papers has been delegated to the Bursar. Tellers have been appointed and results have been posted on the noticeboard.

- (viii) *They shall ensure that Public Business Meetings, Private Business Meetings, Informal Debates and Speaker Meetings are recorded on audio or video tape and further ensure that these recording are properly preserved.*

All relevant meetings have been taped and archived.

- (ix) *The duties of the Chair of the Consultative Committee outlined in (i) to (viii) of this Rule and elsewhere in the Rules (excluding the duties in Rule 5 (a), Rule 26 (d) (i), Rule 30 (d)(iii) and Rule 32) shall be performed primarily by the Chair of the Consultative Committee with the assistance of the Treasurer-Elect in weeks 1, 2, and 3 of Full Term, with the assistance of the Librarian-Elect in weeks 4, 5, and 6 of Full Term and with the assistance of the Secretary's Committee and the five elected members of Standing Committee throughout Full Term.*

It has not so far been necessary to draw on the assistance of the Treasurer-elect and Librarian-elect.

- (x) *In 8th week, the outgoing Chair of the Consultative Committee, the President-Elect and the Bursar shall meet together with the incoming Chair of the Consultative Committee to brief the incoming Chair of the Consultative Committee on the duties of the Chair of the Consultative Committee. If the outgoing CCC has been re-elected and is thus also the incoming CCC, they shall meet with the President-Elect and the Bursar in 8th week to discuss the duties of the CCC.*

This shall be done when my successor is elected.

Further to the above, I have worked in conjunction with the CCS (Mr. Kirk, ex-Secretary's Committee) and the Logistics Team (Mr. Paver and Mr. Petri, ex-Secretary's Committee) in order to ensure the smooth running and functioning of all speaker events and public business meetings, and will continue to do so for the rest of the term. I have also assisted the Secretary and Mr. Al-Yasiri, Standing Committee, in the execution of logistics for the Hilary Ball and Speakeasy Social respectively.

This concludes my report.

Yours faithfully,

Harry Samuels

New College

Chair of the Consultative Committee

Speakers invited by the CCC, Hilary 2017

Mr Noel Edmonds
Mr Murray Gold
Mr Robert Webb
President Heinz Fischer
Mr Randy Newman
Mr Bill Maher
Arlene Foster
Ms Daisy Ridley
Mr Aaron Sorkin
Mr Bradley Whitford
Mr Richard Armitage
Professor Paul Krugman
Mr Michael Giacchino
President Jovenel Moise
President Martin Schulz
Mr Robert Harris
Ms Harriet Harman MP
Lord John Prescott
Lord Mervyn King
Mr Gerry Adams
Mr Russell Davies OBE
Mr Philip Pullman
Mr Martin McGuinness MLA
Mr Hugh Laurie
Ms Louise Mensch
Ms Chloë Moretz
Mr Cillian Murphy
Sir Roger Moore KBE
Mr Chad Murray
Mr Jack Nicholson
Mr Nigel Dodds
Mr Albert Rivera
Mr Matthew Elliott
Mr Pablo Iglesias Turrion
Mr Ezra Klein
Mr Arron Banks
Mr Patrick Corrigan
Lord Christopher Smith
Mr Ben Summerskill
Mr Keegan Hirst
Baroness Deborah Stedman-scott

Mr John Boyega
Ms Gisela Stuart MP
Mr Larry Sanders
Mr George Monbiot
Mr Dominic Cummings
Mr Mehdi Hasan
Professor Richard Dawkins
Mr Steven Woolfe
Ms Suzanne Evans
Mrs Margrethe Vestager
Mr Nick Clegg
Ms Anna Soubry MP
Mrs Gina Miller
Mr Dan Hodges
Lord Menzies Campbell CBE
Mr William Straw
Mr Tim Farron
Mrs Cecilia Malmström
Ms Martha Spurrier
Sir Vince Cable
Sir Nicholas Soames
Mr Ed Miliband MP
Baroness Shirley Williams of Crosby PC

Mr Anthony Romero
Mr John Oliver
Mr Paul Nuttall
Ms Laurie Penny
Mr Douglas Murray

Owen Rapaport, Chief of Staff (Also on behalf of Guest Liaison Officers)

Events

My responsibilities are focused on the Thursday evening debates. I list the debates that have taken place so far with any points of note:

Week 1: LGBT – generally smooth asides from a failure to communicate that one of the speakers had dropped out at the last minute until it was too late to cancel his hotel room. This was remedied by speaking with the hotel, who allowed the rooms to be moved to the following Thursday. There was ultimately no unnecessary cost incurred by the Union.

Week 2: Social Media – once more, generally smooth and no concerns with accommodation this time round. The slip up came when a guest stayed more than an hour after her proposed departure time and a lack of communication with her car. She ended up booking her own car home and profusely apologising. Once more, there was no unnecessary cost incurred by the Union.

Week 3: Populism – a logistical and organisational success with five speakers leading to additional complexity.

Week 4: Religion – again a logistical and organisational success, especially given my role in confirming a last-minute speaker for the debate.

Week 5: Drugs – forthcoming.

Week 6: Russia – forthcoming.

Week 7: Course of History & Education – forthcoming.

Personnel

My team has been comprised of 15 Guest Liaison Officers, all members of the appointed committee. They have in almost every instance performed their duties to the highest standard. Each GLO by the end of the term will have had 2 or 3 debates to escort speakers and facilitate their experience in Oxford and at the Union. These were allocated on the basis of preference and dedication over the vac.

The GLOs have been exemplary and a true credit to the institution. Significant thanks must be paid to the President and the Treasurer, who oversaw the selection process. The GLOs attest to the skill of these two officers in recognising the appropriate combination of sociability and dedication that being a GLO requires. I have no doubt that many of them will go far in the

Union, especially if rumours of a particularly large number of GLO candidates for election at the end of this term are not unfounded.

Recommendations for Improvement

Despite a smooth term during which there have been no logistical catastrophes, there have been a number of communication and business problems that should be addressed before TT '17.

- It is vital to have the arrangements sorted for speakers for the first two debates of the term before the term starts.
- Future Chiefs of Staff should be properly informed about budgets, protocol and responsibilities across the Union whether by training, pamphlet or otherwise. This will help in their ability to pass appropriate information on to GLOs.
- Once a speaker has been confirmed, the chain of communication should be handed over to the Chief of Staff to liaise with them on debate arrangements – as done in MT15 and HT16.
- Weekly arrangements (accommodation, transport, dietary) should be confirmed and made by the Friday preceding each debate.

Owen Rapaport
Chief of Staff HT '17
On Behalf Of GLOs HT '17

Thomas Munro, Press Officer (on behalf of the Press Team)

Actions taken so far:

- We have devised a press strategy which we have intended to implement across events. This strategy included various goals for social media and for a more ordered treatment of journalists at events.
- The new Assistant Press Officers have been shown how to write press releases using MailChimp, and also been shown the best practice when live-tweeting to obtain maximum coverage for the Union on Social Media
- We have implemented these strategies at events.
- We have been using the Union Instagram as another means of promoting the Union

Comments on actions taken so far:

- Social media has been deployed far more successfully this term than last. With the aid of the president-elect, we are now accredited on twitter, which means that speakers are more likely to notice our tweets and we can therefore reach a larger audience. Several events have received great attention on social media, including but not limited to Nadia Murad, and the Liberalism and Populism debate.
- We have seen a similar amount of response to our press releases as last term for the majority of events, though there have been fewer stand-out events with large press contingents. This is probably due to the weighting of several large and prominent events in the last third of the term, including the Benazir Bhutto memorial debate.

Intended Actions:

- To continue the current strategies with social media and handling of journalists at events
- To continue the same strategy of weekly and specific press releases.
- To focus especial attention on press coverage of Dame Minouche Shafik, and Robin Wright through focussed press releases to individual journalists.

List of Journalists with whom the Press Office has had communications:

Steve Panozzo – BBC HARDtalk

Tony Diver –Radio Times

Marc West – Oxford Times

Rob Watson – BBC World Service

Grant Tucker – The Times

Beth Sagar-Fenton – BBC Radio 4

Oliver Holt – Mail on Sunday

Michael Savage – The Times

Anna Silverman – Grazia Magazine

Maria Kuzmenko – Russia Today

Haroon Rashid – BBC Asian Network

Matt Harris – BBC Newsnight

Jeff Farrell – Daily Star

Vicky Dearman – Getty Images

Unity Blott – Daily Mail

Sandra Bensoussan – Foundation Prince Albert II de Monaco

Laura Hearn – BBC News

Emma Rosen – The Telegraph

Lucy Woodham – The Tab

Various members of The Oxford Student, including Lydia Earchy, Chris Allnutt, and Laura Holden

Members of the Press Office:

Kristina Parsinvelos – Head of Communications

Thomas Munro – Press Officer

Thomas Vanderstichele, Toby Freedman, Jack Hunter, Nell Kerslake, Claudia Rowan – Assistant Press Officers

Personal Report Addition: Jack Hunter, Deputy Press Officer

As deputy press officer, I have completed two personalised speaker press releases, which were later sent out to journalists. Due to some cancellations, I have only attended two events: I assisted with live-tweeting at the Liberalism and Populism Debate, and liaised with and accompanied a journalist at the Prince Albert speaker event. I am expecting to complete further weekly press releases and attend further speaker events, to which I have been assigned, in the remaining weeks of term.

Nikita Khandwala & John Aroutiounian, Access Officers

What have we accomplished thus far?

Before the beginning of Hilary Term, we conducted several brainstorming meetings to establish a list of priority items for the Access Committee to address during the term. These included seeing through the completion of several projects initiated by the Michaelmas Term Access Committee, hosting three to four pre-debate drinks sessions in order to encourage continuous engagement on the part of various communities with whom the Oxford Union seeks to build deeper relationships, and to organize a Union-wide “Open Day” to showcase the Union's diversity. We are pleased to report that progress has been made on all fronts: the Access Survey, an initiative begun last term, is nearing completion and will be sent out to the Union membership in coming weeks; connections are being re-established with external charitable organisations interested in collaborating with us; two pre-debate drinks sessions will be held next week; we have notified the committee about Open Day preparations and will begin doling out roles at the next weekly meeting.

We've also concretised two longstanding ideas that have been topics of Access Committee discussion for some time. First, the committee took action to formally suggest to the Standing Committee that the Rainbow Flag be displayed during February. Second, we have begun active discussions to address how best to replace the current “Gentlemen and Wheelchairs” sign affixed to the first floor bathroom in order to promote a more inclusive ethos. We expect the signage to be replaced before the end of the term.

What are we currently working on/what do we hope to accomplish?

We are currently in discussion with an Oxford graduate and a former member of the Union Standing Committee who wishes to collaborate to produce a World Speech Day event on 15th March 2017 at the Union. Given the Union's reputation as a bastion of free speech, we think this would be a terrific opportunity to get involved with; whilst we hope to take this forward, we are as of yet unsure whether we have sufficient resources and/or preparation time to organise such an event. Secondly, as referred to above, we are currently in the early stages of organising the Union “Open Day”, which will take place during the first week of TT17 and which will be open to all members of Oxford Brookes University and Oxford University, regardless of whether they hold Union membership. We believe this will be a fantastic way to raise awareness of and to increase engagement with the Union, and to dispel some of the current misconceptions that surround it, regarding elitism etc.

Nicholas Linfoot, Disabilities Officer

Since my appointment I have attended meetings of the Union access committee wherein I have discussed a variety of important issues around access. I have contributed to the composition of the Union Survey, addressing sections surrounding disability and broader access. In addition I have discussed the importance of correct toilet signage to improve access for all members of the Union. Discussions around the survey of Union members have ranged around a variety of issues from mental to physical disabilities and I look forward to engaging with the results. The meetings of the access committee have been productive and I feel we have laid the groundwork for successful engagement with the disability committee.

Joshua Tulloch, Ethnic Minorities Officer

In my capacity as Ethnic Minorities Officer, in addition to attending committee meetings, I have contacted the 20 societies which represent ethnic minorities within Oxford to arrange feedback sessions in order to ascertain what we can do, as the Union, to further improve the working environment for all our members. I will also be hosting drinks before the Racism and Education debate in an effort to encourage ethnic minority members to speak in debates. Further to this, I have attended ACS events in my capacity as a Union officer to assure them that the Union is committed to making an effort to reach out and make those who are underrepresented feel more welcome.

Olivia Gonzalez & Giles Dunseath-Hamilton, Graduate Officer

What have we accomplished thus far?

Throughout Hilary term we have sought to represent the interests of the Graduate members of the Oxford Union and explore new and interesting ways in which to increase graduate member participation in Union events. The key mode of representation by the two Officers has been in the weekly Access Committee meetings which hears and decides upon proposals to increase Union participation by a wide range of groups. The major objective of the Graduate Officers is to host a Graduate-focused, but non-exclusive social cocktail event in the final weeks of Hilary Term. In addition, we have drafted a letter to all the MCR list serves in the University so that the graduate community knows who we are and that are available for all questions and concerns related to the Union. This was in response to our concern that Graduate Officers have been previously inaccessible.

What are we currently working on/what do we hope to accomplish?

As mentioned, the Graduate Officers have worked towards the organisation of a Graduate Social Cocktail evening to be hosted in the final weeks of Hilary Term 17. This is to replace the less interactive (and much shorter) pre-debate drinks. The event will be for all members of the Union, but targeted towards the goal of increasing graduate networking, inclusion and participation amongst Union members. We believe this will be a substantial step in building social cohesion amongst graduate members of the Union and forming new connections between those that may have previously not participated in many Union events.

Nebojša Jovanović, International Officer

This term, I have worked on creating a system of school visits from St. Peter's college to tour the Union, as well as developing a drinks reception for International students before the debate on the 23rd of February (*This House Believes the West Treats Russia Unfairly*). To fulfill these duties, I have contacted the following persons:

Ms Josie Elliott (JCR Access Rep at St. Peter's College) and **Mr Daniel Pugh-Bevan** (Schools Liaison Officer, St. Peter's College) to discuss the possibility of school visit touring the Union and a possible schedule.

Mr Juliam Blum (Head of Events, the French Society) to organize a group of French and Union society members to come to the international drinks.

I have additionally contacted the following societies over e-mail to invite any Union members to the International drinks event. I am currently waiting for their responses. All e-mails follow the template provided below, with the starting line and society names changed for each e-mail.

Arab Cultural Society
Oxford Armenian Society
Oxford University Australian And NZ Club
Oxford Austrian Society
OU Bangladesh Society
OU Belgo-Luxembourgish Society
Oxford Brazilian Society
OU Bulgarian Society
OU Chinese Society
Oxford Colombian Society
Czech And Slovak Society
OU German Society
Oxford Greek Society
OU Hong Kong Society
Oxford Hungarian Society
OU Italian Society
Oxford Korea Society
Oxford Latin American Society
OU Malaysia Club
OU Malaysia And Singaporean Students' Association
Oxford Mexican Society
Oxford Pakistan Society
OU Polish Society
OU Portuguese Society
OU Romanian Society

Russian Society
Oxford Spanish Society
Oxford Taiwanese Students Society
OU Ukrainian Society

The e-mail template is as follows:

To Whom it May Concern/Dear Sir or Madam/Dear Mr./Ms. <<Committee Member Name>>

My name is Nebojša Jovanović, and I'm writing to you as the International Officer of the Oxford Union this term, to invite any Union members of the <<Name of Society or Club>> to the Internationals' drinks reception on the evening of Thursday, 23rd of February. The reception will be held in the Union bar, and the event will be a great time to meet and mingle with Union international students, as well as to chat with me on any topics concerning the Union and the member experience. Additionally, the reception will be followed by the pre-Debate, as well as the main Debate afterwards, on the topic "This House Believes The West Treats Russia Unfairly." If anyone would like to argue for or against the motion of the pre-Debate, they are not only welcome, but encouraged to do so! Attendees might be able to argue during the main Debate as well.

I would kindly ask you to circulate this information with the members of your society. If there is interest, then please let me know. I will keep in touch and send you the Facebook event when it goes live, which should be at the beginning of next week!

Yours sincerely,
Nebojša Jovanović
International Officer
The Oxford Union

Michael Spak, LGBTQIA+ Officer

Over the vacation I assisted the Treasurer and Librarian in issuing individual speaker invitations, primarily focused upon political figures, and assisted Simon Jagoe and Melissa Hinkley with the LGBTQ+ Allies debate (in which I delivered a speech). In term, I have participated actively in the Access Committee, feeding back from meetings of the LGBTQ Campaign and from my discussions with the LGBTQ Society. In this capacity, I worked with members of the Standing Committee to secure the display of a Rainbow Flag for LGBT History Month.

Kristie Barrow, Women's Officer

In accordance with the goals of the Access Committee for Hilary Term 2017, my activities have focused on two areas: increasing women's participation in the Union and structural change. This comes in addition to the broader Union goal of identifying and securing speakers for Hilary Term.

In the in the final week of Michaelmas term 2016, I assisted the Standing Committee in identifying and contacting potential speakers. Specifically, I focused on securing high profile women for invitation as President's Speakers and for a possible women's panel. The full list of contacts and all connections made in this task are listed in the Union Database. I also assisted the Standing Committee with contacting high profile political speakers.

In regards to increasing women's participation, I am currently organizing drinks to coincide with a speakers' event later in the term. The idea is that I would host a drinks session for women Union members who could meet the speaker in an informal context prior to an event. Currently, we are trying to secure a date and finalise the speakers' availability. Once a date is set, I will reach out to existing women Union members. The Access Committee is also considering an open day to increase membership, and as part of this I will reach out to Women's Groups at Oxford in order to encourage them to attend the open day.

On structural change, I have participated in Access Committee activities, such as discussions on toilet facilities at the Union and a questionnaire on perceptions of barriers for access. I have also investigated the possibility of holding gender-based workshops at the Union and for Union members, and have made preliminary enquiries to this end.

Andy Wang, Outreach Officer

What I have done:

I have reviewed the Union's existing partnerships with organisations such as Tottenham University Children, the Renaissance Foundation Young Leaders, and the Social Mobility Foundation. In the past, they have sent groups of school children to the Union for tours, debating workshops, and debating viewings. I have also been contacted by the Richard Hale School regarding similar programs.

What I plan to do:

I plan to, with guidance from the Access Committee, organise some Union tours and debating workshops with the previously mentioned organisations. I believe that this will be beneficial in inspiring children from more unfortunate socio-economic backgrounds, and promoting a more accessible and inclusive culture for the Union.

Alex Urwin, Sports Officer

On a sporting note, the Hilary 2017 Union term-card included Greg Rutherford, Ruud Gullit, James Anderson and Carl Froch. Chris Coleman was added to this list, whilst we continue to pursue a strong lead with Jurgen Klopp. Whilst James Anderson has unfortunately postponed, the events with Greg Rutherford and Chris Coleman were both successful. Away from the term-card, the Union will play in a 5-a-side football match versus the OxStu, with another game against Cherwell in the pipeline.

Margareta Spjut, Brookes Officer

As discussed in the beginning of the term with the president, the aim is to increase the amount of members from Oxford Brookes. The difficulty being, that this is something which most likely is achieved during the 'Freshers Fair' in September, the beginning of the academic year at Brookes.

Nonetheless, the knowledge of Oxford Unions existence is at Oxford Brookes very low, and in order to enhance this I have been in contact with the following people;

- Charles Regnart, Marketing & Events Coordinator, Careers Office. He suggested that we can promote the Union via their website (30 words), facebook-page (50 words), and twitter account (140 characters).

Contact: cregnart@brookes.ac.uk

- David Rini, Communication. I have not yet managed to reach David, but according to the Union at Oxford Brookes, he would be able to send out an email to all students with information about Oxford Union.

Contact: 01865-483129

Rajkaran Singh, SBS Liaison Officer

[This report was not submitted to the Returning Officer before the production of this report, and thus Mr Rajkaran Singh has been issued with a £10 fine]

On Behalf of the Invitation Researchers by Nikolay Koshikov, President

Please note that the following were ratified to serve as part of the Union's Invitation Research Team in Hilary Term 2017:

Rory Allan; Manish Binukrishnan; Thomas Browne; Samphire Cassidy; Amrita Dhillon; Lucy Fenwick; Molly Greenwood; Owain James; Caleb Ong; Kayla Schulte; Zain Sheikh; Tabitha Steemson; Frederick von Kaufmann. In their roles, each Invitation Researcher has worked on the Society premises for a minimum of three full days during the vacation.

In their roles, each Invitation Researcher has assisted myself, the President, and the Librarian, Christian Zabilowicz, by finding useful contact details for potential speakers, arranging phone calls with agents, and staff of potential speakers, as well as facilitating the invitation of distinguished guests by producing hand-written invitations, and personalised letters of various quality and length.

Please note the list of all invited guests for Hilary Term 2017 can be found on the main noticeboard. Please refer to myself, the President, for any further questions.

Signed on behalf of Invitation Researchers,



Nikolay Koshikov

President
Hilary Term 2017

Reports were not submitted by:

- Jack Symonds, Standing Committee
- Raj Singh, SBS Liaison Officer

All of those who did not provide OPBM reports by my specified, extended deadline have been fined £10, in accordance with the Society's Rules.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AJ Graham". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with the "A" and "J" being particularly prominent.

Alastair Graham
Coll. Sanctae Johannis Baptistae
Returning Officer