

# **OPBM REPORTS**

## **HT16**

### **Stuart Webber, President**

As the President, I have overseen all aspects of the Society, in particular personally managing (along with my committee) the invitations, logistics, and hosting of all debates and most speaker events this term. Please see the term card for more details. The one exception to this would be the Ball, for which I advised, rather than directly managed, the various members of committee involved in the preparation and event itself.

I have chaired all meetings of the the Standing and Finance Committees, as well as all Public Business Meetings every Thursday.

Along with the Librarian, Librarian-Elect and President-Elect, I have managed the Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts of the Oxford Union.

Along with the Treasurer and Treasurer-Elect, I have overseen all sponsorship for Hilary Term 2016, the details of which are highly sensitive.

I appointed all Appointed Officials. Please see the term card for more details.

### **Niamh Coote, Librarian**

As the Librarian, I have been involved in helping to oversee several aspects of the society. In particular, along with the President (and the rest of committee), I have managed the invitations to all individual speaking addresses, as well as helping (by way of advice) the President and the Treasurer, particularly, to devise motions for the debates. I have also been responsible for arranging the logistics and hosting some of the speaker events this term. I have had a particular emphasis on speakers coming under the category of, music, acting, and sport. Please see the term card for more details.

I have chaired all meetings of the Library Committee, and have attended all meetings of CC, TSC, Finance Committee and attended all public business meetings on Thursdays.

I have also helped to managed the Twitter and Instagram account for the Oxford Union, along with the President and other officers.

**Ssuuna Golooba-Mutebi, Librarian-Elect**

I worked in the Union over the Christmas Vacation for 15 days, completing my remaining duties from home.

As Librarian-Elect, I mainly was required to send invitations for people to visit the Oxford Union. I personally sent invitations to, continued discussions regarding past invitations with, or assisted other committee members with drafting their correspondences with such people as Skepta, Trey-Songz, Kerry Washington, Naomi Campbell, Massive Attack, Bradley Cooper, Spike Lee, Donatella Versace, Denzel Washington, Selena Gomez, Viola Davis, Mariah Carey, Erykah Badu, Missy Elliot, Snoop Dogg, Jamie Foxx, Kendall Jenner, Dwayne Johnson, Iman, Miranda Kerr, Michael Fassbender, Heston Blumenthal, Jesse Eisenberg, Adriana Lima, Lupita Nyong'o, Karlie Kloss, Gisele Bundchen, and President Paul Kagame, also handwriting several posted letters when the President required.

As the former Secretary, I advised the current Secretary on different elements of the ball during her preparations for it when she sought my opinion.

## **Noah Lachs, Treasurer**

A summary of my involvement this term:

### **Events:**

- Organised 'Must Rhodes Fall?' Debate.
- Sponsored Shia LeBouef event.
- Managed Holocaust denial debate.
- Came up with 4/7 debate motions/topics.
- Came up with Len McClusky event

### **Speakers:**

- Confirmed Jon Ronson and Jon Favreau.
- Finalising dates for Edgar Davids and Alan Yentob (for Trinity).

### **Sponsorship:**

- £5102 Deliveroo
- £1100 Dentons
- £750 HMC
- £425 Milkround
- £780 University of Law
- £X Austin Reed (pending)
- Finalised/signed contracts with Audible and OMS. Actual worth well into the £1000s

### **Extras**

- Introduced prizes for best floor speakers during debates
- Organised at least 10 new Treasurer's Treats
- Secured 20% discount for Union officers buying White Tie, and free suit rental from C&C
- Taken steps to reduced Nomination Fees by sponsoring manifesto production process

## **Nikolay Koshikov, Treasurer-Elect**

*In accordance with Rule 34 (b)(vi)(1), I have worked for at least 20 days:*

During this time, I worked in the Office of the President, helping with the creation of debate motions for Hilary Term 2016. I have assisted members of the Secretary's Committee and members of the Standing Committee with their invitations.

I worked in the Office of the Librarian, helping with the invitation of distinguished guests. I completed written a number of hand-written invitations. These were addressed to the King of Spain, Mr Floyd Mayweather Jr, Mr Manny Pacquiao, and others. I have completed a number of digital invitations, that were sent to the following (or their representatives): Mr Jorge Mendes, Mr Florentino Perez, Mr Carlo Ancelotti, Mr Jack Ma, Mr Len Blavatnik, Mr Frank Lampard, Mr Jenson Button, Mr Felipe Massa, Mr Sergey Lavrov, Mr Mikhail Khodorkovskiy, Mr Eric Cantona, Miss Abby Wambach, Mr Ronaldo de Lima, Mr Thierry Henry, Mr Didier Drogba, Mr Andriy Shevchenko, Mr Paul Scholes, Mr Michel Platini, Mr Evgeny Lebedev, Mr David Moyes, Mrs Indra Nooyi, Mrs Gabrielle Union, Mrs Chanel Iman, Members of Maroon 5, Mr Manny Pacquiao, Mr Floyd Mayweather Jr, and others.

In accordance with Rule 21 (d)(2), I assisted the Treasurer with his duties under Rule 19(d). I updated and incorporated the database that was used by the Treasurer and the Sponsorship Committee. Upon recommendation of the Treasurer, I have contacted a number of companies. Upon recommendation of the Treasurer, I have ensured that the companies on the list of Treasurer's treats list are happy to maintain their partnership with the Oxford Union. I have updated a list of all officers from MT1965 to MT2015, that will help all future Treasurers to raise more funding for the society.

*During the first five weeks of Hilary Term 2016:*

- In accordance with Rule 21 (d)(4), I assisted the Chair of the Consultative Committee with the performance of his duties and in the creation of the weekly rota for weeks 1, 2 and 3 of Full Term.
- In accordance with Rule 24, I have attended meeting of the Standing Committee.
- In accordance with Rule 26, I have attended meetings of the Consultative Committee.
- In accordance with Rule 27, I have attended meetings of the Finance Committee.
- I assisted the Secretary by facilitating the Oxford and the Chocolate Factory Ball on 12th February 2016.
- I have confirmed the visit of an individual speaker to take place on 27th April 2016.
- I have continued the negotiations with Ms Daisy Fletcher to confirm the visit of Mr Evgeny Lebedev to speak at the Oxford Union.
- I have assisted the President-elect by providing extended speaker blurbs for the following: Senator John McCain, Mr Marco Rubio, Mr Chris Christie, Senator Bob Menendez, Mr Rick Perry.

## **Henna Dattani, Secretary**

In accordance with Rule 22, during the Christmas vacation, I worked in the Secretary's Office for a period of 30 days.

## **Secretarial Admin:**

In accordance with Standing Order E13, I produced a list of useful contact details and distributed this to the committee and staff.

I ordered Oxford Union 'stash' for the committee members who requested it.

I have, so far, received an application for residential membership from Tariq Khalifa and Adam Waldmann and I am meeting them over the next couple of weeks to interview them and judge their potential contribution to the Society.

## **Meetings and Minutes:**

I have fulfilled my duties by taking the Minutes of the Standing Committee. I have chaired all meetings of the Secretary's Committee and I have scheduled meetings of the Wines & Spirits Committee for 6<sup>th</sup> Week and 7<sup>th</sup> Week. At the end of my term of Office, I will send my minutes to the Office Secretary to be bound, as required by Rule 22(a)(ii).

## **Socials:**

In accordance with Rule 22(c):

1. I have organised and run two very successful 'Pub Quizzes' which took place on Tuesday of 2<sup>st</sup> Week, and Tuesday of 4<sup>th</sup> Week. I am planning a final Pub Quiz to take place in 6<sup>th</sup> week.
2. I single-handedly organised the black-tie Oxford and the Chocolate Factory Ball, which took place on Friday of 4<sup>th</sup> Week.

The Ball sold out (600 tickets) with Members' tickets selling for £49 and Guests' tickets selling for £59. Judging from the feedback I have received, the Ball seems to have been a tremendous success.

In order to prepare for the Ball and negotiate the best deals, I contacted the following companies (the companies actually used are emboldened):

- Marquee:
  - **Mudway Workman Marquee Contractors.**
  - D & D Marquee Hire
  - Rent a Tent marquee hire
- Cleaning and bins:
  - **M&M Skip hire**
  - **Jim (Oxford Union Cleaner).**
- Theming and props:
  - **Oasis Events.**
- Drink:
  - **Matthew Clark.**
  - The Missing Bean.

- Alc-au-lait.
- Food:
  - **Vaults & Garden Café.**
  - **Kelly's Occasions**
  - **Natalie Chocolates**
  - **Party Delights**
- Disposables (e.g. plastic glassware and tableware):
  - **Party Plastics.**
- Live music:
  - **Keep It Trill.**
  - **Donut Kings.**
  - **Too Much Pesto**
- Silent Disco:
  - Silent Disco Company.
  - **Harry McSwaine.**
  - **Silent Disco King.**
  - Silent Social.
  - Hedfone Party.
- Other entertainment:
  - **Circus Malabaristas.**
- Security:
  - **Absolute Event Solutions.**
- First Aid:
  - **Absolute Event Solutions.**

### **Other Work:**

In addition to my Secretarial work, I have assisted in both the President's and Librarian's offices in the following ways:

- I came up with the wording of the motion for the Positive Discrimination debate and assisted with others
- I invited speakers to the Union including Douglas Booth, Bubba Watson, Anna Kendrick, William Nighy, Snow Patrol, David Gandy, Richard Hatton, Nicole Sherzinger, Phillipa Gregory, Elizabeth Hurley, Mark Cavendish, Richard Hammond, Delia Smith, and Clare Balding.



## **Ellen Milligan, Standing Committee**

My name is Ellen Milligan and I am an Elected Member of the Standing Committee for Hilary Term 2016. Throughout the course of this term and over the vacation my primary responsibility has been to secure and to arrange the visits of high-profile speakers to the Oxford Union and to organise one of the debates.

With regards to speakers, over the vacation I negotiated with a variety of speakers who were interested in visiting the Union. This led to successful confirmations from Frances De La Tour, Dame Zaha Hadid, Boris Becker, Craig David and Sean Bean (who has not been announced yet), with final details of their visit being finalised currently. I believe my hard work both last vacation and this vacation is shown by the number of high-profile successful speaker invites I have achieved.

Further to this, I worked with a member of secretaries committee, Eva O'Sullivan, to organise the Nuclear Weapons debate. Together, we came up with the exact motion, wrote the invitation blurb and decided who exactly we would invite. This resulted in one of the best debates in terms of gender representation on a highly topical debate – four women and two men. I also did my maiden paper speech for this, receiving great feedback, and I thoroughly enjoyed it, as well as also confirming a speaker for the Strikes debate.

I have also been organising a cocktail making social, which I believe would have been a great success, but unfortunately the President said there was no room in the term card to hold it. I helped run the Oxford and the Chocolate Factory Ball, which seemed to me to be one of the smoothest running events I have worked, thanks to the staff, the rest of committee and organisation of Henna Dattani.

Finally, I have been the access delegate this term and have discussed issues of gender representation – including organising one of the best gender balanced debates and pushing to have gender neutrality when referring to our members ie “I recognise the honourable member” rather than “I recognise the honourable lady”. I have also discussed with committee the problems with the lack of publicity the instalment membership process had in the most recent membership drive, and how to improve this in the future, and have discussed how to judge access schemes now grants have been cut. I was also instrumental in discussing and organising the pre-debate drinks with the different officers eg the Women's Officer, LBGTQIA+ Officer etc and although their turn outs were somewhat disappointing, I think these are really good ideas to maintain.

I think this term card has been a really successful one, and I feel I have certainly made a valuable contribution towards this in terms of the speakers and debates, as well as the smooth running of the events and overall term. I have really enjoyed being on committee, a group of mostly really genuine hard-working and fun people, and hope to continue the hard work.

## **Jaskaran Rajput, Standing Committee**

### **SO A1**

#### **Events and sponsorship**

- Chaired emergency debate in week 2
- Partly organised (led a small team to invite speakers for the debate) and subsequently participated in China debate
- Helped with logistics before and during ball night, as detailed in the Secretary's duties list

### **SO D1**

#### **Activities undertaken**

- Worked during the winter vacation in the office and at home
- Co-ordinated a team of three to invite speakers for the China debate, and subsequently delivered a paper speech in said debate
- Made initial contact with Katrina Kaif, confirmed Bernard Arnault, confirmed Arthur Laffer (postponed/cancelled), made initial contact with Anastasia Lin and two of my previously confirmed speakers from last term, Thomas Newman and Marina Diamandis, visited us this term
- The database is updated with information received from the various speakers I contacted during the vacation
- Chaired emergency debate in week 2
- Helped with logistics during the ball
- Attended all meeting of standing committee bar 4<sup>th</sup> week, which was due to a pressing and immovable academic commitment
- Sitting on wines & spirits committee

#### **Intended activities**

- Will continue to chase up leads with various interested speakers for next term
- Will go to all meetings of the wines & spirits

### **Edward Grigg, Standing Committee**

This vacation past I worked on a number of invitations for the Hilary term. My work included writing draft letters and sending emails to a host of celebrities and prominent politicians. In addition, I helped organise the upcoming ISIS debate, working out dates, writing email invitations and confirming speakers.

This term in my capacity as a member of the Standing Committee I have attended the Committee's weekly meetings held on a Monday afternoon. These meetings are invariably interesting, enjoyable and well run by Mr Stuart Webber, President. I have also served as delegate to Library Committee, which is held on a Monday afternoon and is a similar pleasure to attend, chaired with consummate grace by Miss Niamh Coote, Librarian.

Alongside these regular commitments, I have also taken an active role in facilitating the upcoming ISIS debate and the logistics thereof, aided throughout by my able Standing Committee colleague, Mr Tycho Onnasch.

Moreover, as well as Standing Committee and Library Committee, I have also attended the society's weekly Consultative Committee, again held on a Monday afternoon. Mr Will Barnes, CCC, always ensures that these gatherings run smoothly and they are a regular highlight of my week. I shall continue to attend all these weekly meetings for the rest of term in fulfilment of my duties as an elected member of the Standing Committee. I also anticipate working further on ISIS debate in the run up to the event itself, and would encourage all members to attend.

### **Frances Varley, Standing Committee**

Over the vacation I spent just over 20 days in Oxford helping with all aspects of preparation for the term, including handwriting numerous personalised letters to speakers like Sir Tim Rice, who visited earlier in the term, and others like Rosamund Pike, Mo Farah, José Mourinho and Quentin Tarantino, which may turn into leads for Trinity. Other big projects included my contributions to the organisation of the Must Rhodes Fall? event and developing a partnership with o2 Academy Oxford, the details of which are still being refined. I also assisted with general email invitations for a range of speakers, as well as writing blurbs for about one third of the speakers listed in the termcard. Furthermore, I assisted with the proofreading of the termcard itself.

Throughout term, I have been the Standing Committee delegate to the Debate Selections Committee. This role has involved continuing communications between TSC and the debating side of the Union. I also participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week debate as the opening speaker for the proposition, as well as contributing to the logistics and running of numerous events, including the Oxford and the Chocolate Factory Ball.

## **Tycho Onnasch, Standing Committee**

Over the vacation I stayed in Oxford (excluding from the 25<sup>th</sup> of December to the 4<sup>th</sup> of January) to bring the Union the best speakers and debates:

- For individual speaker addresses, I confirmed many speakers including: Edwin van der Sar, the Prime Minister of Belgium, the Prime Minister of Kosovo, the former Prime Minister of Portugal, the former Prime Minister of Greece, the Prince of Liechtenstein (one of the biggest business-speakers of the term).
- I am in negotiation with a number of other speakers, some of whom might still come this term.
- I came up with the debate motion for the ISIS debate and was subsequently in charge of organising the speaker line-up, producing an interesting debate to look forward to.

During the term:

- I attend meetings of CC, Standing Committee and I am the Standing Committee delegate to the Finance Committee. I have learned a lot about the financial status of the Union and all the projects currently going on through my participation in these meetings, especially the Finance Committee.
- I facilitated the ball through doing a lot of work during that evening with my fellow committee members.
- I negotiated with Ruud van Nistelrooy's management to make sure we could put the video of the event on YouTube.

Further duties:

- Making sure that the details of the events which I organised are all discussed and agreed upon with the speakers' representatives.
- Continuing to contribute to the meetings I attend and producing the Finance Committee Minutes on time.
- Trying to confirm more speakers for the remaining weeks of this term and future terms.
- Making sure the ISIS debate will be a success.

### **William Barnes, Chair of the Consultative Committee**

I worked extensively over the vacation, in particular to organise the Obama Debate with Maan Al-Yasiri with the assistance of Chris Zabilowicz and Henry Robertson, under the President's supervision. My vacation work was thus focused upon US politicians, though I also worked to facilitate logistical and administrative aspects of other invitations and the vacation/term card as a whole.

Term card delivery encountered no problems, and - thanks to the hard work of the team and forward planning - very efficient. [20(d)(i)]

In terms of publicity for events, this has been dealt with - as is now customary - through social media, and thus a matter for the President and an external graphic designer. No College Secretaries have been appointed during my tenure; the list thus remains empty. [20(d)(ii)]

I have worked with the Secretary's Committee to arrange the logistics for all events this term. No event has encountered problems so far, again reflecting planning ahead and the outstanding work of the whole team. It is unclear what role the rules envisage the Officers-Elect and Standing Committee playing when required to assist the CCC; where I have required assistance, I have turned to my exceptionally competent predecessors, Michael Li and Olivia Merrett instead, which seems to be a more sustainable approach for future CCCs [20(d)(v)]. I also played a role in the ball, managing alcohol movements and acting as a supervisor on the night. The ball was a success, as I am sure the Secretary will express in more detail.

With the above responsibilities in mind, I wish to register once again my heartfelt thanks to the staff of the Union (including those working through AES), who consistently go well above and beyond in what can be a difficult environment, making it possible for our members to enjoy these events. They have enabled me to complete each aspect of my duties as CCC, and getting to know/working with them - whether in the office, the bar or elsewhere - has been one of the most enjoyable and memorable aspects of my term so far. I am especially grateful for the patience of the House Manager.

The Consultative Committee has met without issue each week. I welcome the presence of appointed officials, which we have had occasionally, but the absence of 'normal members' is a reflection of the role of CC being quite different to that expressed in the rules. No matters have been referred to TSC by CC. [20(d)(vi)] I attend and contribute to discussion at Standing Committee. I perform my duties with regard to debates [20(d)(vii), [20(d)(viii)], although the Order Paper is produced each week by Eleanor in the office. I have started posting formal notices of the speakers in debates, as well as the simple results; this has been well-received.

I took part in the DRO nomination process; no scrutiny process occurred, in the absence of objections.

**THE WEBSITE:** I am responsible for this under Rule 20(d)(iii), but arrangements for the website remain delegated to the Bursar.

**THE ARCHIVES:** I am responsible for this under Rule 20(d)(iv). It would be fair to say that the management of the Archives has been chaotic, irresponsibly so given their importance to the Society, despite the efforts of recent CCCs. I withhold my consent to the re-appointment of the Archivist until such time as I can be reassured as to his availability, and reassert (as the member of Standing Committee governing the Archives) that the alleged position of Assistant Archivist does not exist in Hilary Term 2016 and should never have existed, when it (a) has been a pointless sinecure rather than making any useful contribution to the management of the society, which is ridiculous, and (b) has seemingly existed in contravention of Standing Order C4(c)(ii). Given the discord that exists over the issue of the Archives, the lack of information available to me despite my role in the rules, and the broader ramifications, I have added this to the Agenda of The Standing Committee to discuss at a suitable opportunity.

**Alfie Shaw, Chief of Staff**

This term I have:

- Led the team of Guest Liaison Officers in ensuring that the guest speakers' experience of the debates, their transport, and their accommodation, was a positive one.
- Assisted the CCC in making other logistical arrangements for the debates.

For the remainder of this term I intend to:

- Continue to lead the GLOs and assist the CCC.
- Work at the Ball.



## **Jack Lennard, Press Officer**

My duties:

- Organise press presence at events.
- Organise and monitor press coverage before, during, and after events.
- Maintain an amicable and positive dialogue between the Union and both the student and national press.
- Organise the division of interviews access between The Cherwell and The Oxford Student.
- Distribute physical press passes at events.
- Host the press visitors for events and ensure they have an enjoyable and useful visit.
- Monitor interviews with speakers.
- Update press clippings board.
- Be first point of contact for press enquiries.

Organisations with which I have been in communication, and who at those organisations:

- NME (Helen Thomas).
- The Independent (Jamie Merrill).
- The Times (Devika Bhat, James Burleigh, David Byers, Jim Mclean, Jeremy Griffin, Jenny Booth, Grant Tucker, Raphael Hogarth).
- The Economist (Holly Donahue).
- The Daily Mail (Karl Smith, Tim Knowles, Neville Dean, Steven Henry, Keith Gladdis, Marianna Partasides, Ben Taylor, Ben O'Driscoll).
- The Sun (Veronica Lorraine, Steve Smith, Kevin Lowry, Hayley Richardson).
- The Guardian (Andrew Culf, Mat Smith, Polly Curtis, Rosie Swash).
- The Daily Telegraph (Mark Hughes, Bill Gardner, Hayley Dixon, Sarah Crompton, Camilla Turner).
- Sky News (Giles Winn).
- BBC (Johanna Howitt, Joanna Humphreys, Natasha Mardikar, Paul Carter, Ed Prior, Daniel Avis, Martin Eastaugh, Deirdre Finnerty, Trystan Young, Cathy McMorro, Peter Henley).
- Demotix (Marta Bescos).
- OpenDemocracy (En Khong).
- Bloomberg (Robert Hutton).
- Huffington Post (Owen Bennett).
- Die Ziet (Khuê Pham).
- RT Ruptly (Antonia Becht).
- INS News Agency (Julia Corbett).
- Press Association (Steven Stocker).
- Borkowski.do (Gerard Corvin).
- UKIP (Gawain Towler).

### **Michelle Hufschmid, Graduate Officer**

As graduate officer, I attended six vacation half-days in December before the Christmas break. I agreed with the President to do six half-days starting from between 12am and 1pm instead of three full days, as I was unable to start from 10.30am onwards. In this capacity I updated the data bank, suggested speakers, researched their contact information, contacted them, and wrote blurbs. Those invited were Roger Federer, President Heinz Fischer, Admiral John Richardson, General Joseph Dunford, General Paul Selva, General Robert Neller, Sergio Ermotti, Tidjane Thiam, Bruce Dickinson, Igor Sechin, Gerhard Schroeder, and Angela Merkel. I also assisted with fundraising and wrote some letters by hand. In addition, I came in for one evening in January to translate a letter into German before handwriting it.

I negotiated with Chatham House via my predecessor, the Graduate Officer Michaelmas 16, to collaborate for a speaker event in 5<sup>th</sup> week that could be connected to a graduate reception. Unfortunately, the event was not reconcilable with their speaker line-up. I liaised with the President over this during the holidays via Skype, and we agreed for me to organise welcome drinks for graduates towards the end of the term instead.

During term time my activities included providing a point of contact for graduates interested in becoming members, attending speaker events and debates, or finding out more about the Union, as well as the distribution of term cards at Kellogg College, and social media invites and updates.

### **Romil Depala, Access Officer**

- Make monthly membership payment option more clear, will push during membership drive next year. Thought that it was important to put information of monthly payment option on the website, but President was not keen on letting anyone near the website, even for small updates or suggestions. (All plans that surround the union being unaffordable for some can really be almost fully resolved by making the monthly payments system more obvious, so this needs to be pushed a lot more, and in my opinion needs a section on the website).
- Adjust access membership payments to new government loan system – sorted, threshold has not changed so the scheme will be adjusted accordingly.
- Attempts to change fine system to perhaps a dean system or to the removal of perks. Will be discuss with Stuart at future meetings.
- Confirm equity officer for union balls and events, not to look out for problems with racism/sexism etc., but to be there should they occur – confirm next week.
- State schools debate competition – put on hold
- Offer helper points to those who help with the running of the union – rejected completely by DSC

### **Dorkina Myrick, Access Officer**

This term, I have chaired the Access Committee, leading committee members in two main areas:

- (1) Increasing accessibility among diverse groups at the Oxford Union
  - a. The Access Committee has organized three successful drinks receptions hosted by the women's, ethnic minorities, international and LGBTQIA+ officers. An upcoming fourth drinks reception will be hosted by the disabilities officer. Through these drinks receptions we have been successful in encouraging and increasing participation of members of these communities in floor debates.
  - b. We have started and currently maintain mailing lists for the above listed Access communities.
  - c. We have worked on strengthening relationships with various cultural communities (women's, ethnic minorities, international, LGBTQIA+) at Oxford, along with Oxford-Brookes, which fall under Access Committee jurisdiction.
- (2) Planning debate activities for secondary schools
  - a. I have contacted over 40 local secondary schools to solicit participation in debating activities, narrowing down the list to a few schools with whom I am currently in communication.
  - b. Presently, I am hoping that, in conjunction with the Debate Selection Committee, we will be able to host an event for the secondary schools at the Oxford Union in the coming weeks.

I have also attended all Standing Committee meetings to report on activities of the Access Committee.

**Amrita Dasgupta, International Officer**

I would like to report that in during my tenure as the International Officer of the Oxford Union, I have liaised with the following international student societies which are affiliated with the University of Oxford:

American Society	Indian Society
Amnesty International	Indonesia Society
Arab Cultural Society	Islamic Society
Armenian Society	Jewish Society
Australian & New Zealand Club	Kazakh Society
Austrian Society	Latin American Society
Baha'I Society	Lithuanian Society
Bangladesh Society	Malaysia Club
Belarusian Society	Malaysian and Singaporean Students' Association
Belgo-Luxembourgish	Nepal Society
Oxford Buddhist Society	Orthodox Christian Student Society
Oxford Bulgarian Society	Palestine Society
Byzantine Society	Portuguese Society
Canadian Students Society	Romanian Society
Chabad Society	Russian Society
Chilean Society	Sikh Society
China-British Youth Association	Slovene Society
Oxford Branch Chinese Innovation Club	Spanish Society
Chinese Society	Sri Lanka Society
Colombian Society	Turkish Society
Cypriot Society	Ukrainian Society
French Society	United Nations Association
German Society	Latvian Society
Gulf & Arabian Peninsula Studies Forum	Polish Society
Hindu Society	Georgian Society
Hong Kong Society	
Hungarian Society	
Italian Society	

Contact was made through Facebook groups and email addresses listed on the OUSU website in order to advertise BME and International Drinks receptions held at the Union bar before debates as well as to inform international societies of potential speakers events of interest hosted by the Union. Unfortunately, many of these Facebook accounts or email addresses are inactive hence responses were not received. A couple of societies came forward to hold joint events with the Union, however responses were received too late and thus these events did not come to fruition. During my remaining time as the International Officer for the Union, I will be organising another BME and International Drinks reception before the debate on Thursday 18th February 2016 as well as advertising speaker events and debates to international societies in order to engage Union members.

### **Olaoluwa Ayeko, Ethnic Minorities Officer**

This term I have had two main goals, to help ethnic minorities who are Union members feel more involved, and also to make the union feel more accessible to people who are not yet members. I organised the first access committee pre debate social of the term. Although attendance to this event was disappointed, it gave us a good indication of how to model socials in the future, consequently subsequent socials have been very successful. We have organised another social before the 5th week debate about the right to strike, as we feel with the new model a social will be very useful for achieving mine and the international officer's goals for the term. My primary target for the end of term is to have a mailing list and possibly a Facebook group, so it will be easier for the subsequent ethnic minority officer to communicate with relevant members about Union events they may be interested in. For the remainder of term I want to continue to strengthen links between the union and ethnic minorities.

## **Brahma Mohanty, Disabilities Officer**

### **What I have done so far?**

As the Disabilities Officer I have been delegated the task of exploring means by which the Oxford Union can improve its access/image towards its current /potential disabled members. This required having to get feedback from a number of sources and as such, I emailed the Disabilities Reps at the respective student groups at both Oxford and Oxford Brookes Universities. I emailed and met with the head of the Disabilities Advisory Service alongside emailing the respective Disabilities/Welfare Reps across Oxford's JCRs and MCRs. I also conducted a phone appointment with the Disabilities Rep from Oxford Brookes University this previous week.

### **What have I achieved?**

I have received extensive feedback from the Disabilities Representatives at both Oxford and Oxford Brookes and with them discussed a range of concerns and proposals. These alongside conversations with the DAS enabled me to draft a new policy on behalf of the Oxford Union to assist disabled members. The new policy would basically allow those who identify themselves as disabled to contact the union prior to an event/debate taking place in order to make us aware of a particular requirement/accommodation (e.g. reserved seat, interpreter etc.). Those who fail to notify the union within the time period would still be accommodated subject to availability of spaces/appropriate accommodations and/or may be required to wait in the queue. However in order to avoid any discomfort that queueing may cause, such individual's position in the queue would be noted and they would then be invited to wait inside until entry to the chamber/room begins. I have also been able to respond to individual emails which have raised concerns and feedback about disabilities access at the Oxford Union.

### **What I intend to do?**

The policy is awaiting approval by both the bursar and the DAS until it can be implemented as an official policy at which point, this will be communicated on all of the Union's social media platforms and the website. I will follow up those who have not responded to my enquiries with an additional further email and I intend to send these in the next 24 hours. I intend to also host a pre-debate drinks event for the debate during 7th week which will be open to disabled members of the union. Further to the feedback from the emails and phone appointments with respective disabilities reps, I will explore the possibility of hosting Open/Information Days for potential disabled members in order to address any queries they may have about what the Union has to offer and encourage them to join the Union.

**Mia Smith, Women's Officer**

Worked over the Christmas vacation for ten days organising an all-female panel of women in technology and inviting other miscellaneous speakers (blurbing and writing letters as well as choosing speakers to invite). Worked with Stuart on improving female representation at debates and reforming ballot system for members to ballot in pairs. Organised and hosted drinks in third week before the China debate and made a start on a Women's Officer mailing list. Attended Access Committee meetings.

### **Harry Chisholm and Tom Rayner, Brookes Officers**

Over the vac the roles and responsibilities of the Brookes Officers included working at the Union to find speakers for debates and sending invites, and also to properly prepare for the SU council meeting in the coming term. Then since the start of term the Brookes Officers have been busy representing the needs and interests of Brookes students who are members at the Oxford Union. This includes actively promoting the Oxford Union around the campus at Brookes and on social media.

Our main objective of this term is to repeal the Brookes SU policy regarding not recognising or working with the Oxford Union Society. This will be discussed at the next possible SU Council meeting on the 2nd March, to be attended by both Brookes Officers and another official from the Oxford Union. If the policy is to be repealed, this will be beneficial to us as officers and the promotion of the Oxford Union around campus, as we will be able to represent Brookes members to a higher degree. This will also mean that the Oxford Union will be able to host a stand at Freshers Fair again to further boost the membership drive in the years to come.



**Jonathan Tan, Development Officer**

**Tasks completed:**

- Completed Vacation Day work, primarily working on securing sponsorship for the union
- Worked with the treasurer to secure treasurer's treats shops

## **The Sponsorship Committee**

My name is Callum Tipple and I wrote on behalf of the Sponsorship Committee for Hilary Term 2016. Throughout the course of this term and over the vacation our primary responsibility has been to secure financial revenue for the Union through sponsorship, be that term-card sponsorship or other revenue streams.

Over the course of the vacation and the term itself the team worked to find details for the majority of leading companies both within the UK and beyond. This resulted in the securing of sponsors for this term and next – for specifics please see the Treasurer's report. Our work consisted in calling such companies, sending over sponsorship packs and following up to secure the sponsorship, before the Treasurer put pen to paper.

All in all it has been a successful term for the Oxford Union, and we feel that through our work in securing sponsorship we were able to contribute towards this in a substantial way. We hope that the newly-created Sponsorship Team is a more permanent fixture in future terms (given its success this term in raising cash for the Treasury), and that our experiences can be useful to future committees. We'd finally like to thank the rest of the Elected and Appointed Committees for making this term such a pleasant one to be a part of, and wish future Sponsorship Committees the very best of luck.

## **The Logistics Team**

For Hilary Term 2016, we, Calum Neil, Sam Billington and Ryan Tang, have been appointed to the Logistics Team. Here follows a concise list of the duties we have performed during this term and the preceding Vacation:

- Assisted the Treasurer with organising prizes for Thursday Debate floor speakers
- Assisted with the invitations of speakers
- Contributed blurbs for events featured in the Hilary termcard
- Participated in termcard delivery
- Managed the queues for the Rhodes Must Fall panel event
- Aided Oxford Union Staff with managing the chamber before several events
- Helped set up for the David Hasselhoff event
- Helped set up for the Len McCluskey event
- Assisted the Secretary with running the 4<sup>th</sup> Week Pub Quiz
- Helped set up for the Oxford Union Hilary Ball 2016
- Worked at the Oxford Union Hilary Ball 2016
- Supported the President in publicising events using social media
- Attended Consultative Committee to keep abreast of the week's logistical demands

For the remainder of the term, we shall continue to help run any event at which our assistance is requested.

**Reports were not submitted by:**

- Mia Smith, Women's Officer (*late submission*)
- George Graves, LGBTQIA+ Officer
- Jonathan Tan, Development Officer (*late submission*)
- Matthew McGrath, SBS Liaison Officer

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

Ceri Smith  
*Coll. Sanctae Annae*  
Returning Officer