**Officer Report**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name:**  | Mia Clement  |
| **Role:** | Vice-President Activities & Community |
| **Council meeting:** | Tuesday 21st November 2023, second meeting of MT23 |

# Section One | Pledges

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **My Pledges** | **Progress** |
| Climate education | * Climate library to be published on the 30th November, with an open form for student recommendations of items that should be included.
* Responsible Futures UK cohort catch-up.
* Oxford Climate Education Forum held on the 14th November.
 |
| Biodiversity | * Member of Curators of University Parks – collaborating on student focused posters across green spaces highlighting the biodiversity in that area.
* Tour of Botanic Gardens.
* Held event in collaboration with Nature Positive Universities.
* Working on a Green Guide that goes through college, university and Oxford/Oxfordshire green spaces with accessibility information and a brief description of the sites.
 |
| Community engagement | * Student Friendly Oxford website push on social media.
* Expanding the SU volunteer hub.
* Spotlighting charities with the university with university backed funding for internships with said charities – charities tbc.
 |

# Section Two | Projects

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **My Projects** | **Progress**   |
| Inside Oxford Research  | MT23 Session: Batteries & Biology*To be held 22nd November at the SU, 5-6pm.*Joined by Professor Hagan Bayley FRS, Professor of Chemical Biology at the University of Oxford. Professor Bayley will be discussing his recent work inspired by the way electric eels generate a charge. His team developed a novel type of biocompatible miniature battery that can regulate the biological activity of human neurons. The design uses an ionic gradient across a chain of tiny hydrogel droplets to produce electricity. |
| Two Tales of One CityMT23 sessions completed | Session one: Homelessness in OxfordThe level of homelessness in Oxford is higher than in neighbouring local authority areas. In 2019 the estimated number of homeless people in Oxford was 237.  The number of rough sleepers is high for a city of Oxford's size, with almost 8 persons rough sleeping per 10,000 households in 2019 (using the street count number for 2019).*This event hosted 13 students and 5 panellists, two from Emmaus Oxford and one each from Crisis Skylight Oxford, Homeless Oxfordshire and The Porch Day Centre.*Session two: Education Disparity in OxfordAlthough Oxford has world-class universities, the attainment gap for those receiving free school meals, for black, Asian and minority ethnic groups and those receiving SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) support across the pre-higher education stages are unacceptable in a city like ours. Oxfordshire is in the worst quartile when local authorities' attainment gaps are listed, despite having one of the smallest percentages of disadvantage at secondary school level. *This event hosted 5 students and 3 panellists, two from Oxford Hub and one from Keen Oxford.* |
| Oxford Climate Forum | Oxford Climate Education Forum held as a precursor and to test out organisation. |
| Climate Library | To be launched 30th November in line with the start of COP. |
| Everything is Connected | Season is almost finished, culminating in a final exhibition of attendee poems, artwork and creative projects. |
| Climate Colloquium | *Email for expressions of interest sent out by the Vice-Chancellor.*The Vice-Chancellor's Colloquium will be an exciting opportunity to develop new skills outside of your subject area through dynamic talks and group activities. You will expand your network and employable skills while learning from peers in different courses, colleges and years of study. The Vice-Chancellor's Colloquium will also be part of an innovative new digital accreditation programme that will allow you to share your participation on your CV and social media such as LinkedIn. In addition, the work of interdisciplinary teams of students will be showcased at a celebratory event in Trinity term. The Vice-Chancellor has chosen climate change as the focus of the first year of the Colloquium. This reflects the fact that responding to climate change is a strategic priority for the University (see the Environmental Sustainability Strategy). The climate also reflects an interdisciplinary challenge, with research across the sciences and humanities helping us understand the causes, impacts and solutions of climate change. During 2023/2024, the Colloquium will approach climate change as a means to explore interdisciplinary skills. |
| Garden Guide/Wildflower Walks | Botanic Garden walk has been held.Christ Church meadow and Trinity garden walks to be held next term. |
| Swift Bricks | Paper discussed but not actioned on in last Building Estates Subcommittee, involved discussion on the feasibility of swift bricks being incorporated into estate developments.The common swift (Apus apus) is now on the red list of conservation concern in the UK after a 60% decline in the past 25 years (Harris et al., 2022), putting it at risk of national extinction. Loss of suitable nesting sites for this cavity-nesting species is noted to be a primary cause of this decline (Finch et al., 2023). Modern building design and refurbishment of old buildings is leaving the birds without nesting options, as swifts are almost entirely dependent on human structures for nesting sites in the UK. Swift bricks are a solution to mitigate the declines seen in UK swift populations – these cost just £30 and sit flush with walls but provide crucial nesting sites to swifts and other cavity nesting species that are also in decline (e.g. house martins and starlings). Formal paper with actions to be taken to next subcommittee meeting. |

# Section Three | Key Events and Meetings

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Event, Meeting or Media**   | **Date**  | **Outcomes / Impact**   |
| *Event*Oxford Botanical Gardens Wellbeing Walk | 25th October | Insight into the current glasshouse developments, botanical innovations and appreciation of nature, in this educational space and wellbeing event.Attended as a sabbatical officer representative and a staff member, with 5 student attendees who had never engaged with the SU before. |
| *Event*From Seed Banks to Food Banks | 25th October | Event with Oxford Community Action, Mutual Aid, Oxford Food Hub and Oxford Community Emergency Foodbank to discuss the value of food agency, issues to access and supporting others in a time when environmental change will put further strain on food production.50 attendees, of which 10 were student attendees.  |
| *Meeting*Sports Strategic Sub-Committee Meeting | 26th October | LGBTQ+ Positive and Trans-Inclusive Working Group formation approved as part of my policy paper.Policy to be reviewed and fleshed out by the working group in addition to contacting the BUCS team to start a dialogue on improving their trans-athlete policy. |
| *Meeting*Curators of University Parks x Oxford University College Gardeners Association x Oxford SU collaboration | 27th October | Met with Carolyn Jenkins the head of University Parks and Green Spaces to formalise my help in a Trinity Tree Tour around Oxford for students to engage witih. |
| *Event*Two Tales of One City: Homelessness in Oxford | 28th October | Heard from Homeless Oxfordshire, Emmaus Oxford, The Porch Day Centre and Crisis Skylight Oxford.Had 13 student participants attend this roundtable discussion and can confirm 10 of these are now volunteering with one of the attendee charities. |
| *Event*Warning Notes | 28th October | Music concert using only bird song. Attended by Oxford Brookes and Oxford University students in addition to local residents and staff.  |
| *Event*Hope and Action |  | Event on optimism and climate conversations to promote inclusive climate activism.  |
| *Meeting*Biodiversity net-gain and student engagement with colleges: Angela Unsworth x Oxford SU collaboration | 30th October | Possibility of environmental net-gain in addition to biodiversity net-gain metrics as a way to include cultural importance of green spaces and nature in colleges and across Oxford (particularly because of graded buildings). |
| *Meeting*Charity RepCom | 31st October | 9 representatives attended. Discussed university wide clothes swap, Two Tales of One City mini series in colleges, mentorship schemes with local charities, updates on RAG and RAG ball. |
| *Meeting*Curriculum sub-group of Environmental Sustainability Sub-committee | 1st November | Responsible Futures SOS-UK team presented to the sub-group, Bill updated on the environmental sustainability curriculum baselining, I asked for feedback on my climate library and concluded with spaces of informal climate education. |
| *Meeting*Sabbatical Officer termly meeting with Vice Chancellor | 1st November | Updates from Sabbatical Officers on key projects, my updates focused on climate education and institutionalising her Climate Colloquium to be a credited part of all degrees, trans-inclusive sports policy and support, and finally climate activism support networks. |
| *Meeting*Student Engagement and Student Friendly Oxford: Diana Fawcett (City Council) x Oxford SU | 1st November | Tentatively organised Trinity term Two Tales of One City Event at Town Hall.Student Friendly Oxford website promotion and social media spotlight. |
| *Event*Oxford Innovation Ecosystem | 2nd November | Discussed student research and involvement in local innovation, charitable work, and sharing resources across the city.  |
| *Meeting*Oxford SU x Friends of the Earth | 2nd November | The collaboration between Oxford SU and Friends of the Earth represents a strategic alliance aimed at fostering environmental awareness and sustainable initiatives within the university community. By joining forces, we plan on initiating workshops centred on eco-friendly policies and in particular air pollution in Oxford. |
| *Event*The Air We Breathe | 4th November | Discussion on air pollution in Oxford. In particular continuing efforts to lower levels. Overall air pollution (NO2) levels have decreased across the city by 8.3% on average. Compared to pre-pandemic (2019) levels, 2022 saw a 24% reduction in air pollution. The legal annual mean objective of 40µg/m3 was exceeded at six locations within the city. |
| *Meeting*LGBTQ+ RepCom | 6th November | 20 representatives attended, welfare check-ins, LGBTQ+ campaign updates, discussion on trans-inclusivity and trans day of remembrance events. Reps updated on their experiences from last term and points of action. |
| *Meeting*Curators of University Parks | 7th November | The collaboration between the Curators of University Parks and Oxford SU is a synergistic effort geared towards fostering community engagement and environmental stewardship within the university ecosystem. This partnership focuses on implementing various initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and enhancing the overall experience of students and visitors within the University Parks, particularly on recycling and rubbish disposal, and a Trinity Tree Tour. |
| *Event*The Messiness of Nature | 7th November | Discussion on the positives of rewilding efforts.  |
| *Meeting*Sports RepCom | 8th November | 3 representatives attended. Discussed informal sports engagement and college collaboration. |
| *Meeting*Building and Estates Subcommittee | 9th November | Discussion on biodiversity net gain on the growing Begbroke estate and college gardens. |
| *Event*Two Tales of One City: Education Disparity | 11th November | Attended by 5 students and 3 panellists. Discussed future efforts of mentorship schemes, college x primary school pairings, outreach and access. |
| *Meeting*GLAM Strategic Framework Workshop | 14th November | Contribute to implementation plan for GLAMs strategic framework, achieving the inclusion of students as a key audience for engagement both in teaching and extra-curricular.  |
| *Meeting*Entz RepCom | 14th November | 9 representatives attended. Action to be taken by myself on an entz template handover document and basic contacts (venue, security, spiking reporting).  |
| *Event*Oxford Climate Education Forum  | 14th November | 10 students attended with Bill Finnegan, from Environmental Sustainability Team, leading the discussion. |
| *Event*Rent Negotiation Training | 15th November | Open to JCR and MCR officers on negotiating rent at college levels. Present what inflation actually is, how colleges decide prices and top negotiation tips from Sabbatical Officers and the SU Advisor. |
| *Meeting*Sustainability Forum  | 16th November | Theme for this forum is biodiversity in colleges, hearing from Nature Positive Universities, College gardeners, information sharing between colleges and feeding in student experience, finishing with identifying transparency in activities. |
| *Event*OUem ESG and Sustainability webinar | 16th November | Webinar on the university endowment funds and management, and their sustainability strategy. |

# Section Four | Future Key Events and Meetings

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Event/Meeting**   | **Date**  | **Anticipated outcomes / impact**  |
| *Meeting*Oxford SU x Sustainability Team  | 20th November | Discuss Green Action Week plans and promotion. |
| *Meeting*Responsible Futures support afternoon – ESD and positive outcomes for students | 21st November | Exploring ESD and positive outcomes for students, relating to criteria IO003 and IO004 in the Responsible Futures framework. Will be looking at how ESD impacts students holistically, and there will be a focus on eco-anxiety amongst other topics. |
| *Event*Inside Oxford Research: Batteries & Biology | 22nd November | Event in collaboration with engineering, biology and chemistry student groups.Showcase Oxford research to new groups. |
| *Meeting*Domestic Bursars Committee | 23rd November | Discuss cross-college student allotment. |
| *Meeting*Property Management Sub-Committee | 23rdNovember | Discuss rent increases and feedback rent negotiation training work. |
| *Meeting*Renters Rights | 24th November | Produce renting guidebook for students in shared or single accommodation in addition to college specifcs. |
| *Event*Nature and Poetry Reading | 25th November | Attend event and present own work.  |
| *Event*Talking about fair water |  | A fair water future is where everyone has access to the good quality water needed to survive. Inequalities in water security are felt around the globe, often in nations in Africa and in South Asia, where challenges are greatest and poverty most acute. What can we do, from globally to locally, to help enable good quality water for all and to inspire positive action?With artists Invisible Flock, poet Alice Oswald, REACH Communications and Knowledge Exchange Manager Alice Chautard, Senior Research Associate in Water Security and Society, School of Geography and the Environment Dr Sonia Ferdous Hoque and Director of Performance at St Catherine’s College Dr Cayenna Ponchione-Bailey. |
| *Meeting*Domestic Bursars Clinic – Oxfordshire Liveable Streets presentation | 28th November | Presentation from Oxfordshire Liveable Streets, a member organisation committed to improving the lives of Oxfordshire residents through innovations in neighbourhood design, and how colleges and students can contribute. |
| *Meeting*Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee | 28th November | Present on SU updates and sustainability engagement. |
| *Meeting*Curators of University Libraries | 28th November | Bodleian strategy meeting before going into main meeting agenda. |
| *Event*DPhil Event | 29th November | Welcome evening at the Weston library, organised by VP UG Education and Access and the Bod Library. |
| *Meeting*Responsible Futures International and UK cohort | 5th December | Form network with Universities in Australia and Canada involved in the Responsible Futures and gather feedback on climate library. |
| *Meeting*Building and Estates Subcommittee | 7th December | I will be bringing forward a formal paper on swift bird bricks. |
| MeetingOxford SU Trustee Board meeting | 7th December | Discuss SU review, propose anti-transphobic framework for the SU, people and culture inclusivity updates. |