**Officer Report**

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| **Name:** | Jenni Lynam |
| **Role:** | VP Undergraduate Access and Education |
| **Council meeting:** | Hilary, week 3 |

# Section One | Manifesto Updates

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| **My Pledges** | **Progress** |
| Academic Bridging Scheme for students | Following my initial work on this pledge at the beginning of the year, I have been working closely with the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) who are piloting a programme to work with colleges to increase academic skills provisions for on course students. The CTL are also approaching departments to consult them on increasing their academic skills provisions.  Although the university is already working on this issue, the SU can certainly push them to do more. I have been planning my work to make investigations into individual departments to see what initiatives are already in place for students and find out which departments should be doing more. I hope to use these findings to push departments to do more. |
| Access and Participation Plan (APP) | The university is in the first stages of writing their Access and Participation Plan (APP). I am working as the student point of contact for this. Through this role I am launching an APP working group for students to join to play an active role in shaping the university’s plans. In the long term, I will be writing the SU’s submission for the APP. This is a document that is independent to the university’s submission which comments on how effectively students have been consulted in the design of the APP, how confident they are in its delivery, whether or not the university has successfully identified the greatest risks to equality of opportunity and the credibility of the university’s intervention strategies.  The Office for Students will consider student submission alongside the university’s APP and the relevant data.  This will inform the assessors recommendation about whether the university’s plan should be approved. Student perspectives may differ from their university's or college.  I will also be designing a survey for students to fill out to get a general sense of what students think should be included in the university’s APP and what initiatives students believe they would benefit from the university investing in. |

# Section Two | Projects

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| **My Projects** | **Progress** |
| Academic buddies mentoring programme | I have been working on creating a new academic mentoring scheme that will be run by the SU. This has involved creating resources to help students in their roles as mentors. |
| Policy change to increase provisions and support for suspended students across colleges | Last term, after consulting with students, I redrafted the College Quality Assurance provisions document which is a document that all colleges have to adhere to. Following this, I will eb taking this revised document to the Quality Assurance Working Group later this term to get the changes passed. This will encourage all colleges to do more to help suspended students. |

# Section Three | Events

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| **Events/Media** | **Date** | **Outcomes / Impact** |
| Unite the Unions (*event*) | 26/01/2024 | Following successive Student Council mandates for the VP Undergraduate Access and Education to increase their engagement with trade unions, I ran an event to bring together reps from both the UCU and Unison. In format, this event was a discussion panel with reps from both unions to discuss working conditions for staff at the university and colleges. It was really insightful to hear from the reps on the work of their unions to tackle the problems that are specific to workers in Oxford (the University and its colleges).  Apart from the fact that this panel was really engaging, it was also highlighted a gap that the SU can place itself: to facilitate conversations between students and the staff that provide their education.  The feedback from Union reps present was very positive and suggested that this could be an event that is repeated into the future. |
| Target Schools recruitment | 25/02/2024  01/02/2024 | I have been working with Target Schools in their recruitment of a new committee for the next year. As a sabbatical officer, I am responsible to support Target Schools with their projects and ongoing initiatives and will be working closely with the new committee. |
| Prelims Advice Fair (*event*) | 02/02/2024 | I am working with Class Act on this event. We have made provisional plans on how we are going to run the event. We still need to drive sign-ups for the event in terms of subject reps. |

# Section Four | Committee meetings

Please give a summary of your committee meeting attendance and detail key outcomes/impacts.

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| 1. Information and Digital committee (IDC) (11/01/2024)   I was given a broad update on the university’s progress on their digital agenda. Something of importance for students that came up was progress towards centralised student services in a ‘app’ format which I voiced my support of.  There university is now investing in an AI competency centre which will eb researching its use in academia.   1. Admissions Executive (12/01/2024)   This is the main decision-making body for undergraduate admissions. The majority of the committee time was used to deal with the ongoing impact of the TCS testing failure. Questions have been raised on whether testing should be something that should continue to be used in the admissions process.  Another key discussion point that was brought up was the University’s APP and the role of AdEx and the admissions process in this.   1. QUASC (Quality Assurance Steering Committee) (17/02/2024)   This committee is responsible for ensuring that all of the undergraduate courses across the university. One relevant agenda point for students discussed was non-academic student casework and streamlining this process to make it more efficient.   1. Astrophoria Foundation Year Steering Group (18/01/2024)   I gave an update to the committee that the motion on adding a Foundation year Officer to the Class Act Campaign committee had been passed in Student Council. I also brought up the importance of ensuring the welfare of foundation year students was accounted for via a quality assurance check which is going to be implemented via the QASC university committee.   1. Class rep-com (17/02/2024)   This was a great repcom with a lot of useful discussion and a good opportunity for me to get student feedback on issues that were upcoming for the committees that I attend. A big discussion point was the university’s APP. I ran past attendees outcomes from the first meeting that I attended with the university and the general direction that the APP is starting to go in. It was great to get feedback from students on what they think should be included in the new APP which I will take back to my next APP working group meeting.   1. Course Rep Forum (26/02/23)   Our amazing academic policy officer organised a course rep forum this term which had a good turn out and positive outcomes. It was a good space for myself and the VP Postgraduate Access and Education to connect with students and discuss academic matters. Following conversations with divisional reps, this forum provided a physical space to meet academic reps from across the university and a way to connect these students.   1. Catch-up with the Bodleian Libraries (19/01/2024)   I had an insightful meeting with the Bodleian libraries to discuss how the Student Union can foster our relations with them. After consulting with a student last term, there is an appetite for out-of- term events for students which is something I am working on. Given this, I was keen to see in this meeting is there was potential for the SU to collaborate with the Bodleian on some out of term events. Following this, I will continue my efforts to organise some events with GLAM for students out of term. |

# Section Four | Future Plans

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| **Event/Project** | **Date** | **Anticipated outcomes / impact** |
| SWSS Student Forum | 31/02/2024 | This is a great platform to discuss student welfare services across the university. It will be a great place to think about the importance of these services in the ongoing APP and the importance of efficient student services for good educational outcomes. |
| Taught Degrees Panel | 30/02/2024 | This is a regular university committee meeting that raises and discusses issues on all taught degrees across the university. |
| APP working group | 31/02/2024 | This will be the second APP meeting of term that I will be attending. It will be useful to get more insight into what the university’s plans are. I will be commenting on the university’s plans and relaying this back to students. |
| Education committee | 01/02/2024 | This is another regular university meeting that I attend. Some points that will be discussed are the university’s AI guidance for students and the committees priorities for the next year. |
| University Council | 05/02/2024 | Regular meeting, agenda TBC. |