**7th Week Michaelmas Term 2023 Student Council**

**TIME: 17:30**

**DATE: Tuesday 21st November 2023**

**LOCATION: tbc**

If you have any questions about Student Council, please feel free to contact:   
**Chair of OxfordSU Council:** [**chair@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk**](mailto:chair@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk)

**SU Staff: studentengagement**[**@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk**](mailto:dso@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk)

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**I. Items Below the Line**   
*Steering Committee have deemed these motions uncontroversial, and so they will pass at the conclusion of the meeting, without a discussion or a vote. Attendees can request to the Chair that a motion be moved ‘above the line’ (and therefore discussed and voted on).*

1. Campus Unions, Luca di Bona
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**J. Items for Discussion**

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**A. Minutes of the previous meeting**

See Week 3 Michaelmas 2023: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/minutes/>

**B. Matters arising from the minutes**

**C. Elections in Council**

Returning Officer (x1)

Steering Committee (x2)

Elections Committee (x3)

Scrutiny Committee (x2)

Chair of Council (x1)

NUS Proposals

**D. Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees**

Written reports can be found here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/>

**E. Reports from and questions to Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality, Suspended Students Campaign, It Happens Here, and the International Students Campaign.**

Written reports can be found here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/>

**F. Reports from and questions to Divisional Representatives for ContEd, Medical Sciences, and Humanities.**

Written reports can be found here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/>

**G. Items for resolution**

1. **Reform to the Ethical Code of Practice for Commerical Activities**  
   Proposer: Luca di Bona, St Hilda’s  
   Seconder: Alfie Davis, St Anne’s

**Council Notes:**

1. The SU currently has the policy “Ethical Code of Practice for Oxford SU’s Commercial Activities”, outlining groups that the SU does not work with commercially
2. The SU also has the policy “Fossil Fuels Careers Motion” that places further restrictions on groups which the SU works with commercially
3. According to the minutes of the Student Council Meeting in 3rd Week Trinity Term 2023, Oxford SU has a list of characteristics taken into account when making decisions regarding financial relationships, including if an organisation is one “who may have links to human rights abuses or associations with companies/organisations that perpetrate human rights abuses” or who has links with “animal rights abuse, those linked to licences sale of arms, fossil fuels, etc”
4. As of 17:45 on 16/10/23, the SU website contains banners (presumably paid for) for GCHQ and the Royal Air Force Air Squadron
5. Both groups have a history of human rights abuses[[1]](#footnote-2),[[2]](#footnote-3)

**Council believes:**

1. The criteria for groups that the SU does not work with should be made clear in a single policy
2. This list should be broadened to explicitly include the aspects of the British (and other) states with ties to human rights abuses

**Council resolves:**

1. To adopt the Policy in Appendix One as the Ethical Code of Practice for Commercial Activities
2. **Free Speech and the Oxford Union**  
   Proposer: Luca di Bona, St Hilda’s   
   Seconder: Alfie Davis, St Anne’s   
   Content Warning: Racism, islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, antiziganism, fatphobia and antisemitism.

**Student Council Notes:**

1. In Trinity Term 2023 Oxford SU removed a statement published by Oxford SU LGBTQ Campaign (the Campaign) calling for the cancellation of an event at the Oxford Union featuring Kathleen Stock against the wishes of the Campaign.
2. This decision was made by Oxford SU over fears the statement may have been in breach of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023.
3. The Oxford Union has invited Ben Shapiro, Katie Hopkins and Charlie Kirk to speak or debate in Michaelmas Term 2023.
4. Ben Shapiro has been accused by the Scientific American of climate change denial[[3]](#footnote-4); accused the Palestinian people of “dress[ing] their toddlers in suicide vests” and declared that “[t]he Palestinian Arab population is rotten to the core”[[4]](#footnote-5); said that “Arabs like to bomb crap and live in open sewage”[[5]](#footnote-6); falsely claimed that George Floyd, an unarmed black man murdered in 2020 by white police officer Derek Chauvin, died of a drug overdose[[6]](#footnote-7); claimed that “[a] man and a woman do a better job of raising a child than two men or two women”[[7]](#footnote-8), that “homosexual activity is a sin”; and referred to being transgender as a mental illness, saying that “biology is biology; men can’t magically become women”[[8]](#footnote-9) and promoted the debunked and transphobic concept of rapid onset gender dysphoria.[[9]](#footnote-10)
5. Katie Hopkins has said that “Islam disgusts me”[[10]](#footnote-11) and referred to Sadiq Khan as the “Muslim mayor of Londonistan”[[11]](#footnote-12); blamed crime on multiculturalism[[12]](#footnote-13); said she would not employ obese people[[13]](#footnote-14); promoted the white genocide conspiracy theory[[14]](#footnote-15); tweeted “Gypsies are ferrel [sic] humans – we have no duty to them”[[15]](#footnote-16); appeared alongside a holocaust denier whilst attempting to intervene to return migrants to unsafe Libya[[16]](#footnote-17); and blamed the Pittsburgh Synagogue shooting on the Chief Rabbi’s support for refugees.[[17]](#footnote-18)
6. Charlie Kirk leads Turning Point USA, a group whose former second-in-command said “I HATE BLACK PEOPLE. Like fuck them all . . . I hate blacks. End of story.”[[18]](#footnote-19). He has promoted the cultural Marxism conspiracy theory[[19]](#footnote-20); advocated for the creation of a citizen militia to be sent to the US-Mexico border to protect against the “invasion” of the country by Haitian refugees and prevent the “diminishing and decreasing [of] white demographics in America”[[20]](#footnote-21); referred to George Floyd as a “scumbag”[[21]](#footnote-22); denied climate change[[22]](#footnote-23); pushed lies about the Covid-19 Pandemic[[23]](#footnote-24) and the 2020 election[[24]](#footnote-25); and referred to trans people as a “throbbing middle finger to God”.[[25]](#footnote-26)
7. In 2001 David Irving’s scheduled appearance at the Oxford Union was cancelled after in part the intervention of Oxford SU (then OUSU)[[26]](#footnote-27)

**Student Council believes:**

1. Contrary to its name, the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act is an attack on freedom of speech, making SUs and their representatives to exercise their own free speech.
2. SUs should be able to call for the cancellation of events without fear of legal repercussions.
3. Protests against events are a manifestation of freedom of speech and should be protected.
4. The views expressed by Ben Shapiro, Katie Hopkins and Charlie Kirk are repulsive and not worthy of respect in any reasonable society.

**Student Council resolves:**

1. To mandate the SU to release a public statement condemning the Oxford Union for inviting Ben Shapiro, Katie Hopkins and Charlie Kirk, to be published on all official Oxford SU social media accounts, to be sent to *The Oxford Student* and to be sent to the President of the Oxford Union. The text of an initial draft of Appendix Two.
2. To mandate all SU sabbatical officers and the SU as a whole to publicly support any protests called against the invitations of Ben Shapiro, Katie Hopkins and Charlie Kirk, including but not limited to the sharing of the details of any such planned protests which the SU or its sabbatical officers are informed of, within one working day of being informed of such protest.
   1. This does not mandate SU sabbatical officers to actually attend any such protests, or to promote any protest outside of official SU channels, although sabbatical officers are invited to do so if they so wish.
3. **It Happens Here’s Delegate Allowance**  
   Proposer: Yasmin Poole, Green Templeton College  
   Seconder: Will Jackson-Nichols, Keble College

**Student Council Notes:**

1. 9.2(c) of the bye-laws mandates that the Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality, LGBTQ+ Campaign, Disabilities Campaign, Women's Campaign must appoint three representatives to vote at Student Council.  
2. The remaining SU campaigns can only appoint one representative to vote at Student Council.

**Student Council Believes:**

1. It Happens Here is an anti-sexual violence campaign and is part of the Oxford SU.  
2. It Happens Here can only have one voting representative at the Student Council per the bye-laws.  
3. The campaign is a crucial voice amplifying the perspectives of survivors and advocating to create a safer campus.  
4. The campaign should have three representatives to vote in Student Council to have adequate influence to contribute to and determine issues affecting students from the perspective of survivors.

**Student Council Resolves:**

1. To add '(vi) It Happens Here' to 9.2(c) of the bye-laws.  
2. To remove 'and' after (iv) Women's Campaign.  
3. To add ', and' after (v) Class Act.

See Also: Appendix Three

1. **Creation of a Campaign Welfare Committee**  
   Proposer: Alfie Davis, St Anne’s  
   Seconder: Rosalie Chapman, Oxford SU

**Student Council Notes:**

1. The SU campaigns hold many events throughout the year for their members.
2. Currently there is no formalised system specifically for campaigns to protect their members, should they face harassment, assault or bullying from another campaign member, at, or outside of campaign events.
3. Thus, the 15 co-chairs of all 8 campaigns and the VP for Welfare have collaborated to formulate the following system.

**Student Council Believes:**

1. All members of a campaign should feel free to attend events of a campaign without fear of bullying, harassment or abuse, or being made to share a space with someone who has inflicted this on them.
2. Campaigns should have a formal system to remove, warn or ban those they feel are a risk to their community and others. This system should ensure timely harm reduction, be easily accessible and preserve the autonomy and co-operation of campaigns.
3. This system should be fair, procedural, intersectional and objective.

**Student Council Resolves:**

1. Form the Campaign Welfare Committee, chaired by the VP for Welfare and composed of a ‘Campaign Welfare Delegate’ from each campaign to preside over this process.
2. Introduce the Complaints Procedure and Code of Conduct (linked below) as means to govern the regulations and process by which this committee operates
3. Clearly advertise these documents and a simplified complaints process on the SU website, as well as a series simplified flowcharts (linked below).
4. Clearly advertise who each campaign welfare delegate is on the same page.
5. Introduce a clause into the constitution of each SU campaign, seen in Appendix Four.

Appendix Four shows the Class Act constitution, as an example, with the proposed new clause as tracked-changes.

Appendix Five shows the proposed Flow Chart of the Campaigns Complaints Procedure

Appendix Six shows the proposed Campaign Complaints Procedure and Code of Conduct

1. **Minimum Service Levels Act (Opposition to)**  
   Proposer: Luca di Bona, St Hilda’s   
   Seconder: Alfie Davis, St Anne’s

**Student Council Notes:**

1. The Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 (henceforth “The Act”) gained royal assent in July 2023

2. The Act allows employers in certain sectors, including education, to enforce minimum service levels during strikes by demanding certain striking workers attend their workplaces

3. Employers are not legally required to do this

4. The TUC has described the Act as “draconian, unnecessary and unworkable” [1]  
5.The UCU has also opposed the Act [2]  
  
[1] <https://www.tuc.org.uk/research-analysis/reports/minimum-service-levels-issuing-work-notices>   
  
[2] <https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/13212/Tory-minimum-service-levels-consultation-a-spiteful-attack-on-workers-everywhere>

**Student Council Believes:**

1.The Act is a draconian crackdown on worker’s rights and must be opposed  
2.Students should stand in solidarity with university strikes  
3.Crackdowns on workers rights affect students as lecturer’s working conditions are our learning conditions, and students will in the future make up the workforce

**Student Council Resolves:**

1. To make SU policy to publicly oppose the Act, including publishing a statement criticising the Act  
2. To make SU policy that:

“The SU will publicly oppose any attempt of the University to enforce minimum service levels by giving work notices to any trade union during industrial action”

3. To mandate the SU President, SU VP Undergraduate Education & Access and SU VP Graduate Education & Access to lobby the University to publicly commit to not giving work notices to any trade union under any circumstance

1. **Motion for non-punishment for non-violent activism**  
   Proposer: Mia Clement, Oxford SU  
   Seconder: Jennifer Lyman, Oxford SU

**Council Notes:**

1. Non-violent activism is an integral part of democratic societies, as it allows individuals and groups to express their concerns, advocate for change, and contribute to the betterment of our world (Vinthagen, S., 2015. A theory of nonviolent action: How civil resistance works. Bloomsbury Publishing). It embodies the principles of freedom of speech and assembly, values that Oxford University holds dear (<https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/freedom-of-speech>).
2. A motion for non-punishment for non-violent activism to the University is important in the context of a government crackdown on dissent and protest for several reasons (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-takes-action-to-stop-disruptive-protests>). Here protests often serve as a platform for marginalized and disadvantaged communities, and promote social issues, to highlight grievances and demand justice. Crackdowns disproportionately affect these communities, silencing their voices and perpetuating systemic inequalities.
3. This type of motion and mandate aims to protect individuals engaging in peaceful activism from severe university procedural consequences. The purpose of this is to recognize the importance of free expression and the fundamental role that activism plays in the development of critical thinking, civic engagement, and the pursuit of a just society, to create reciprocal relationships and open up dialogue.

**Council Believes:**

1. Oxford University has a long-standing tradition of fostering intellectual exploration, debate, and social consciousness. It is a place where students and scholars are encouraged to question established norms and engage in activities that challenge the status quo. As such, it is crucial to affirm the rights of our students to engage in non-violent activism without the threat of punitive measures.
2. Non-violent activism is often a catalyst for positive social change (Sørensen, M.J., 2017. Laughing on the way to social change: humour and nonviolent action theory. Peace & Change, 42(1), pp.128-156). It can raise awareness, spark conversations, and bring about policy reforms. By protecting activists from academic repercussions, the motion enables students to be more effective in advocating for causes they believe in.

**Council Resolves:**

1. That the Vice-President Activities & Community open up dialogue with the Proctors Office and Rules committee on alleviating and making transparent the punishment for engaging in non-violent direct action as a student.
2. That the Vice-President Activities & Community consistently communicate with justice and social issue activists on the matter of non-violent direct action and University procedure.
3. That the Vice-President Activities & community collaborates with the University on educating the Oxford community about the principles of non-violent activism, its historical significance, and its importance in the context of inclusivity, liberation, justice and equality.

**7. Centralised Gender Expression Fund Mandate**

Proposer: Bella Done, Hertford College

Seconder: Joel Aston, St Hilda’s College

**Council Notes:**

1. Transgender & gender non-conforming students at Oxford whose welfare can depend quite significantly on being perceived as the gender they identify with and feeling comfortable in their appearance.
2. Gender dysphoria is a feeling of distress associated with a disconnect between an individual’s perceived gender and appearance, and their gender identity. This can have a negative effect on trans people’s welfare and mental health.
3. The OUSU 2018 Trans Report shows evidence of higher levels of anxiety and stress in trans students, with two thirds stating Oxford has had a negative or extremely negative effect upon their mental health.
4. Items of clothing exist to help alleviate gender dysphoria, including binders, concealing underwear, packers and breastforms, and as such obtaining these items can have a significant impact on wellbeing and mental health. These items can also improve welfare for gender non-conforming students who may not experience gender dysphoria.
5. Such items can be expensive, discouraging people who would benefit from these items from buying them. The average binder costs £30 + shipping (often from the US) while breastforms cost over £60.
6. Student Council has previously supported trans issues, including introducing passing motions last term and this term on Trans inclusivity in sport.
7. To the best of our knowledge, about 25 common rooms (JCRs, MCRs, GCRs etc) offer some form of GEF with a range in size from £60 to £600 a year. Similarly, there are at least 9 common rooms without a GEF right now, such as Jesus, Oriel and Trinity.

**Council Believes:**

1. All students who may benefit from these items deserve equal access to them, regardless of financial circumstances or college.
2. While it would be ideal to set up a Gender Expression Fund of equal size in each college, this will take a long time, and the support outlined is essential in the meantime.
3. Students’ welfare is important, and the Student Union should strive to develop suitable welfare provisions for all of its members.
4. Establishing this fund would show to current and prospective trans and questioning students that the Student Union is a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to explore one’s gender identity and expression.
5. The trans and gender non-conforming members of our community deserve our continued support.

**Council Resolves:**

1. Mandate the VP Welfare and VP Liberation and Equality to help the LGBTQ+ Campaign set up a central SU Gender Expression Fund of at least £400 per academic year to reimburse students for items that aid in their gender expression, including but not limited to binders, packers and breastforms.

**8. Gender Neutral & Accessible Toilets**   
Proposer: Luca Di Bona, St Hilda’s   
Seconder: Alfie Davis, St Anne’s

**Council Notes:**

1. Toilets in the SU and some, but not all, College and University buildings are gender neutral  
2. Gender neutral toilets allow trans, non-binary and gender-non-conforming students and staff to feel safe and comfortable in using the toilet and in spaces more broadly  
3. Where gender neutral toilets are not available, trans, non-binary and gender-non-conforming students may not be able to safely attend an event  
4. Where gender neutral toilets are available, but there are additional barriers to their access (such as having to ask someone for a key) trans, non-binary and gender-non-conforming students may not feel comfortable attending an event  
5. Where disabled toilets are available, but there are additional barriers to their access (such as having to ask someone for a key or such toilets requiring a RADAR key) disabled students may not feel comfortable attending an event  
6. Where gender-neutral toilets are available but alongside gendered toilets, trans, non-binary and gender-non-conforming students may feel uncomfortable in having to, to some extent, out themselves, by using gender-neutral toilets. Furthermore such toilets are frequently further away than other toilets owing to there being less of them.

**Council Believes:**

1. That disabled students and trans, non-binary and gender-non-conforming students deserve to feel safe and comfortable  
2. That the SU should seek to provide disabled without additional barriers to access (such as having to ask someone for a key or such toilets requiring a RADAR key) at all events  
3. That the SU should seek to provide gender-neutral toilets without additional barriers to access (such as having to ask someone for a key) at all events  
4. That the SU should attempt to make as many toilets as possible gender-neutral

**Council Resolves:**

1. To make the following SU Policy:

a. Every event the SU, a campaign, or a sabbatical officer holds should, if possible, be held in a venue with disabled and gender-neutral toilets (separately) that do not have additional barriers to access (such as having to ask someone for a key or such toilets requiring a RADAR key). Ideally all toilets in such venues should be gender neutral.

b. If an event is held in a venue without disabled and gender-neutral toilets that do not have additional barriers to access, a written record of the reasons why providing such toilets was not possible should be published on the SU website

c. If the SU hires out a whole building for an event, the SU should affix signs reading “gender neutral toilets” to all toilets accessible to event guests, with the potential to indicate some toilets as being disabled toilets and some toilets having urinals available if relevant  
  
d. The SU, and the VP Undergraduate Education and Access and VP Postgraduate Education and Access in particular, should lobby the University and Colleges to provide disabled and gender-neutral toilets (separately) that do not have additional barriers to access (such as having to ask someone for a key or such toilets requiring a RADAR key), and further to convert all toilets to gender neutral toilets

e. That the SU, and the VP Undergraduate Education and Access and VP Postgraduate Education and Access in particular, should proactively work with JCRs and MCRs to lobby Colleges to make the changes outlined in (d), including but not limited to the creation and distribution of example motions

**9. Creation of a Refugee Rights Campaign**  
Proposer: Kennedy Aliu, Oxford SU   
Seconder: Jenna Ali, St Hugh’s  
Content warning: Racism, xenophobia

**Council Notes:**

1. The University of Oxford and the wider Oxford city have a long history of supporting those displaced by conflict or persecution, dating back to the Second World War and continuing with the recent support for Ukrainian citizens affected by war.

2. Oxford University’s Refugee Studies Centre, established in 1982, undertakes critical research, teaching and outreach relating to all aspects of forced displacement. This initiative reflects the university’s commitment to being a place of welcome to people and students affected by displacement.

3. Somerville and Mansfield colleges at Oxford were awarded the College of Sanctuary status in 2021, offering fully funded places for postgraduate study to displaced scholars.

4. According to Jan Royall, Principal of Somerville College, there was one Sanctuary Scholar Two years ago, six scholars last year and eight scholars next year reflecting University of Oxford commitments to education of with a history of displacement.

5. The university has hosted events like the Sanctuary Fair, promoting connectivity between displaced people, students, and the local community, and discussing themes like the current politics of sanctuary in the UK and refugees’ access to higher education.

6. Oxford’s integrated program of scholarships and support under its ‘Oxford Sanctuary Community’ provides pre-arrival and on-course support, social and cultural events, and a dedicated point of contact for students from displacement backgrounds.

7. The Refugee-Led Research Hub in Nairobi, initiated by Oxford, empowers researchers from displacement backgrounds to become leaders in the research process which has been beneficial the Oxford academic community.

8. Globally, we are witnessing a refugee crisis. From the crisis in Nagorno-Karabah, Gaza, Sudan and Ethiopia the global situation is dire. According to the Global trends by the UNHCR, there were over 108.4 million people forcibly displaced due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and environmental catastrophes.

9. The UK’s policy to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, introduced in 2022, symbolizes a growing disdain for refugee rights. Under this policy, people seeking asylum in the UK may be relocated to Rwanda, where they would apply for asylum within Rwanda’s system, with no option to return to the UK.

10. The UK’s treatment of refugees has been met with criticism, as exemplified by the UN’S condemnation of media personality Katie Hopkins’ column describing migrants as “cockroaches” and “feral humans” contributing to a cycle of vilification and intolerance towards migrants.

11. Oxford Student Union has been mandated by council to organise against the opening of the Camps-field Detention Centre near Oxford, which is reopening to house over 400 men, pending deportation.

12. In the context of the global refugee crisis, with increasing anti-refugee sentiments and policies in the UK, exemplified by the Rwandan deportation scheme and the anti-refugee rhetoric of figures like Katie Hopkins (who was also invited to the Oxford Union), the need for a comprehensive campaign supporting, protecting and advocating for refugees is more critical and urgent than ever.

**Council Believes:**

1. That the intersectional nature of refugee rights, is underscored by these developments and emphasizing the importance of advocacy and protection for refugee rights particularly in the current climate of hostility and misinformation is of immense benefit to the student body.

2. That the campaign will enrich the university’s culture of diversity and inclusivity by bringing in a plethora of experiences and perspectives that can enrich the academic space for all students.

3. Supporting refugee and sanctuary students foster advocacy and empathy development among the student body as a deep understanding of the interconnected and intersectional experiences of refugee realities allows for a more comprehensive educational experience.

4. That the campaign aligns with the university’s commitment to human rights and social justice as it demonstrates a proactive stance in addressing the global impacts of this issue.

5. The campaign’s involvement with refugee issues offers student opportunities for service learning and community engagement which enhances educational experiences through practical application of their knowledge.

6. That the campaign will promote leading research within the field of refugee studies to engage students and strengthen student advocacy.

7. Engage with refugee and sanctuary students nurtures a sense of global citizenship and responsibility among the student body. It underscores the university’s role in shaping future leaders who are aware of and responsive to global challenges.

8. That the campaign will provide a sense of belonging and safety, which is fundamental for effective learning and personal growth.

9. That the political and academic nature of refugee issues allows for exposure to real-world interactions and connections within and outside the oxford community.

10. The urgency of the campaign aligns with the ongoing sanctuary initiatives within the university and a cross-pollination of ideas, research and policies will provide problem-solving skills and collaborative opportunities that will foster a dynamic student union.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To create a Refugee Rights Campaign to support and advocate for refugee and sanctuary students.

2. To advocate for policy changes within JCR and MCR constitutions to recognize and accommodate the unique experiences of refugee and sanctuary students.

3. To begin the work of democratizing the College of Sanctuary status beyond Somerville and Mansfield College.

4. To raise awareness within the university community about the struggles and potential of refugee students

5. To collaborate with internal and external organizations to provide additional support and resources for refugee students.

6. To actively promote and celebrate the successes and contributions of refugee and sanctuary students within the university community.

7. To accept Appendix Seven as the interim constitution for the Refugee Rights Campaign before further student consultation and development.

**H. Project Proposals for resolution**

1. **Oxford Wildlife Photography & Filmmaking x Oxford SU Exhibition**  
   Project Proposer: Will Jackson-Nichols

**Project Description:**

Display 12 photos from the Oxford Wildlife Photography and Filmmaking Society community in an exhibition held within the SU building. Later these photos can be used by the SU in decorating their space. This will work alongside our annual charity calendar competition which sells calendars of the 12 photos with half the proceeds going to Wild Oxfordshire.

**Project Aims:**

* Host 1 exhibition in the new year.
* Reach all visitors to the SU either at the exhibition or after when on display.
* Help SU champion the world’s wildlife.

**Project Spending Request:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Amount (£)** | **What is the spend for?** |
| £ 60 | 12 x A4 prints at SnappySnaps. |
| £ 138 | 12 x A3 [frames](https://www.hobbycraft.co.uk/black-gallery-frame-30cm-x-40cm/6518431000.html?glCountry=GB&store=&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA0syqBhBxEiwAeNx9N-6uCCz00bU3A2X--XHTcVKU4ka-3tvzLAAw3ocf84NlI657-RYGWhoCeDsQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds) with A4 mounts |
| £70 | Snacks/refreshments on the gallery opening day/evening. |
| Total Spend = £ 268 | |

**I. Items Below the Line**

1. **Campus Unions**  
   Proposer: Luca di Bona, St Hilda’s  
   Seconder: Alfie Davis, St Anne’s

**Council Notes:**

1. It is current SU Policy to support striking UCU staff members

2. Non-academic staff at the University and colleges are represented by other unions including Unite and Unison

**Council Believes:**

1. The SU should provide the same solidarity it does to non-academic staff as it does to academic staff

2. The SU should encourage all students to join a trade union if applicable

**Council Resolves:**

1. To make Appendix Eight Council Policy

1. **Environmental Affairs Campaign Constitution**

Proposer: Mia Clement, Oxford SU  
Seconder: Jennifer Lyman, Oxford SU

**Council Notes:**

1. Appendix Nine (the proposed Environmental Affairs Campaign constitution)

**Council Believes:**

1. The creation of an Environmental Affairs campaign will improve student experience and engagement with environmental issues.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To approve the Environmental Affairs Campaign Constitution.
2. **Addition of a Foundation Year Officer to Class Act**

Proposer: Jenni Lynam, Oxford SU

Seconder: Mia Clement, Oxford SU

**Council Notes:**

1. The Astrophoria Foundation Year (AFY) was launched by the university this academic year. This is an access programme that is designed to bring students into the university that have Oxford the potential to be in Oxford but that might have experienced a disrupted education. AFY functions as a one year programme that acts as a ‘bridge’ to help students with the transition to university.
2. The cohort of students selected to be a part of the AFY are matriculated students and therefore should be represented by the Student Union. In addition to the democratic value of student representation, it also functions as a means to ensure that students feel welcomed into the Oxford community which has heightened importance given the fact that AFY is in its first year.
3. Class Act is a student led campaign that exists to represent students from a range of underrepresented socio-economic backgrounds.
4. The key functions of the Class Act campaign are to represent and support individual groups of students and additionally to lobby for change within the university if necessary.
5. Vice president undergraduate access and education has reached out to the AFY cohort to consult them on this position and has received positive feedback. (1. <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/increasing-access/foundation-year>)

**Council Believes:**

1. Students from the AFY should have a space to voice concerns about their student experience. The Student Union should provide the platform for this, allowing sabbatical officers to collaborate with AFY students and flag concerns to the university via their committee positions.
2. Class Act is the most relevant SU campaign that applies to the status of students from the AFY cohort and should be representative of the whole community of students in Oxford
3. SU campaigns should act as a means to advocate on behalf of students and AFY students also have this prerogative.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To add a ‘Foundation Year Officer’ role to the Class Act Campaign constitution who will represent AFY students and feedback to the SU on the experience of the cohort. See Appendix Ten.
2. **Appointment of an External Appeals Officer**

Proposer: Jennifer Lynam, Oxford SU

Seconder: Kennedy Aliu, Oxford SU

**Council Notes:**

1. Student Council must approve the appointment of an External Appeals Officer (EAO), who is responsible for supporting the student Returning Officer in dealing with any SU Elections complaints.

2. Emilie Tapping is the CEO of Oxford Brookes SU and has been Oxford SU's EAO for several elections cycles.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To appoint Emilie Tapping as the EAO for the Oxford SU Elections 2024 to support the Returning Officer

**J. Items for Discussion**

1. In-person delegates to NUS Conference  
   Proposer: Luca di Bona   
     
   In previous years, Oxford SU has sent in person delegates to NUS national conference. We are entitled to send in person delegates to both national and liberation conferences. NUS decision making is a multistep process, involving submissions from SUs, consultation by delegates on these submissions before conferences, in person policy workshops at conferences, in person debates at conferences, and voting on final policy proposals. Owing to the current election schedule, Oxford SU NUS delegates will not be able to attend online consultation on policy prior to conference as they will not have been elected yet. The current plan is for this year’s delegates to only attend conference online, and so denying Oxford SU a voice at any point other than initial policy submission and final voting - in previous years in person discussions have produced significant changes to the final policy that is voted on. Oxford SU spends £26,000 on membership of the NUS, and we should be able to use that to its full extent, by ensuring we have maximum power over the decisions it makes. The SU should consider potential avenues of funding travel and accommodation for in person delegates, including as a council project, funding from other SU funds, JCR/MCR funding and university funding.

**K.** Any other business

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