**7th Week Hilary Term 2024 Student Council**

TIME: 17:30

DATE: Tuesday 27th January 2024

LOCATION: Wadham College

If you have any questions about Student Council, please feel free to contact:   
**Chair of Oxford SU Council: chair@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk**

**SU Staff: studentengagement@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk**

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A. Minutes of the previous meeting

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<https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/minutes/>

B. Matters arising from the minutes

C. Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees Written reports can be found here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/>

D. Reports from and questions to CRAE, Refugee Rights Campaign, International Students’ Campaign, Suspended Students’ Campaign & It Happens Here. Written reports can be found here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/>

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F. Report from Trustee Board can be found here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/>

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| **Item** | **Agenda** | **Action** |
|  | **Welcome**  **Council starts at 17:45**  **ISAAC CHASE-RAHMAN (CHAIR)** thanks everyone for coming, and Wadham for hosting. The Chair introduces himself and reminds attendees that his position is up for election, and that this is therefore his last council. The Chair explains that his time in the role has been systematically mired in difficulty around democratic principles. The Chair states that events preceding meeting have been undemocratic, and that he believes the SU unjustly shut down votes of no confidence, handling the investigations insufficiently and irresponsibly. The Chair states that the SU cannot function for wilful disregard for democracy. The Chair resigns with immediate effect and hopes that the SU reflects and changes.  **KENNEDY ALIU (VP Liberation & Equality)** steps into Chair and introduces himself. Kennedy states that this is his first time chairing anything and asks Council attendees to help make the experience as smooth as possible. |  |
| **A** | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**  **Chair** points out that these are available online, asks if there are any questions or comments on them. There are none. |  |
| **B** | **Matters arising from the minutes**  **Chair** invites questions and comments on the previous minutes, there are none. |  |
| **C** | **Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees**  **KENNEDY, VP LIB AND EQUALITIES & CHAIR:**  In the past month he has been developing refugee academic futures scholarship. He has been looking into JCRs and MCRs involvement to give towards the college of sanctuary campaign. He has been increasing EDI discourses and initiatives access for refugee and displaced students and trying to increase student engagement with EDI.  **KENNEDY** notes that Mia (VP Activities and Communities), Jenni (VP UG Education & Access), and Nick (VP PG Education & Access) have sent apologies and asks if there are any questions or comments on the relevant reports; there are none.  **LUCA DI BONA**, HILDAS: Notes that the President has not submitted a Report and asks the President to provide a full report on his activities.  Council is briefly paused to fix technical issues. Council continues.  **SUMEYYE KOCAMAN, CATZ:** [online, chat] I feel obliged to demand response to concerns raised by the chair who just resigned.  **SHERMAR PRYCE, UNIV:** I completely agree.  **KENNEDY:** Summarises for online attendees that Isaac resigned because of the ways that the SU handled the motions brought forward. Chair notes that he can’t answer fully, not sure how to proceed. Notes that this is what he understood from what Isaac said at the beginning of the meeting.  [Chair turns back to questions for Sabbatical Officers]  **ROSALIE CHAPMAN, VP WELFARE:** Last term secured gender expression fund, exploring how to advertise especially through LGBTQ+ Campaign.  Talking to estate services and GLAM, working out how sanitary provisions work in university buildings.  Trying to take the burden away from individual common rooms to provide sanitary products.  It’s been hard for university to allow student societies to use university buildings, want to improve that.  Pushed heavily for mandatory consent training, but pushback as it is seen as potentially not preventing incidents by the university.  **LUCA:** Who is funding the gender expression fund?  **KENNEDY:** The SU, from the Sabbatical Officer budget.  **Chair** moves on to questions and comments for Danial (President).  **DANIAL HUSSAIN, SU PRESIDENT:** [online, speaker] as I returned to work last week, I do not have a formal report, I apologise, will have one next meeting, will be publishing things over the vac.  **LUCA:** Will you commit to in the next 24 hours reaching out to Scrutiny Committee to make a report?  In a previous report made you several promises – one was that the College Disparities would be published by Michaelmas 4th/5th week, this didn’t happen even though you were suspended in 6th week. How can we trust that you will deliver on these promises when you have consistently shown otherwise? How was 3 days not enough time to make a Council report when you were employed for a month?  **DANIAL** thanks for asking the question, he is sure it is a question lots of students want to ask. I can’t comment on confidential HR matters, the report is finished and has been for a while, I want to do this kind of work well and properly, I’ve been consulting with heads of college, JCR and MCR presidents. Hopefully will be published on 0th week Sunday.  Feel free to message for any further questions.  **LUCA** notes that they are not satisfied with these answers to their questions.  **MICHAEL-AKOLADE AYODEJI, UNIV:** I feel like most students rightfully have questions on what the President has been up to, he should tell us what he has been up to in the next couple of weeks.  **NIALL PEARSON-SHAUL, MERTON** notes that in 3rd week Council of Michaelmas Term, Danial was mandated to produce a report on the changes to the rules of student council - can you confirm that this will be produced?  **DANIAL:** Says that a lot has gone on, he is sorry that is has not been provided yet but will be ready by next council, and he is willing to talk to people about it.  **LUCA:** President is responsible for the trustee board, we have heard chair resigning partly over what I assume is the no confidence votes, why were unelected staff able to make that decision on your behalf? Can you confirm trustee board blocked the no confidence motions from this agenda?  **DANIAL:** Yes  **LUCA:** Why should the trustee board be able to override democratic will?  **DANIAL:** Says that he can’t speak on behalf of entire trustee board, but it is difficult as there are confidentiality and HR investigations but will get advice and will get back to you and provide a formal answer.  [Council descends into argument and the Chair restores order]  **LUCA:** I don’t have confidence in the President, I don’t think many students do.  **LUCA** raises a procedural motion for two extraordinary meetings in 8th week, to hold a motion of no confidence in the President.  **SHERMAR:** So, you don’t have confidence in the President for something that the President didn’t do?  [Council descends into argument and the Chair restores order]  Chair invites arguments for and against Luca’s procedural motion, there are none.  Attendee asks for clarification on what Luca’s procedural motion is, Luca provides clarification that their motion is for two extraordinary meetings to be held at which a motion of no confidence in the President will be heard – over the concerns raised by the Chair’s resignation, the lack of submission of a President’s report, and insufficient answers to questions.  Chair moves to a vote:  FOR: 17  AGAINST: 5  Luca’s Procedural motion passed by simple majority.  [NOTE: THIS RESULT IS LATER STRUCK]  **Chair** asks if there are any other questions for Sabbatical Officers; there are none. |  |
| **D** | **Reports from and questions to campaigns**  **Chair** asks if there are any questions for the Campaigns; there are none. |  |
| **E** | **Reports from and questions to Divisional Reps for Medical Science, Continuing Education and Humanities**  **SUMEYYE Kocaman, CATZ (Divisional Rep for Humanities PGT)** notes that she didn’t hear from student reps yet, she is starting to establish democracy networks with societies, asked to report back to division and did, response was do not need to worry, so if decided why did division ask them, doesn’t feel like they have much role.  **LUKMAN Lawal (Divisional Rep for Medical Sciences PGT)**: Notes that his division is to review course fee, as public processes are required to consider all costs fees in order to reform fees. With department, both department and course rep, one recurring theme is that for home students raising home fees would be a massive challenge so if students had to find additional means there would be a massive financial strain. International students also would face an increase so would also face financial strain.  Been looking into how students’ interests can be protected, wanted to look into how the interest of students can be protected. |  |
| **F** | **Report from Trustee Board**  **Kennedy** welcomed questions on the Trustee report.  **SHERMAR:** Why were the motions of no confidence blocked, why are we not able to hear why it is was blocked?  Kennedy refers the question to Nikki (SU CEO), who replies that she would be happy to provide more detail over email.  **The Chair** asks Shermar if that suffices, Shermar says no, he would like a Sabbatical Officer to answer. There is no reply from the present Sabbatical Officers.  **SHERMAR:** It is strange that one can talk on the matter - was a decision made which we can know about, or is SU embarrassed about it, this is not a good enough handling of the situation.  **KENNEDY:** From what I understand, the vote pertained to something that was confidential and so they couldn’t make a decision because there was a lack of clarity, so couldn’t answer on that.  **ROSALIE** agrees with **KENNEDY**, the matter pertains to sensitive matters.  **YASMIN POOLE, GREEN TEMPLETON**: [online] Are there not parts of the motion which don’t pertain to an investigation, and therefore could be discussed?  **ROSALIE** notes thatthe two motions were blocked for different reasons and highlights that anyone can email Nikki for clarification. The proposers for the motions were both different people with different motions and were blocked for different reasons.  **ROSE HENDERSON, WORCESTER:** The investigation which the President was suspended for has ended, and so why were the motions blocked in relation to an ongoing investigation? Is this a new investigation?  **ROSALIE**, **KENNEDY** and **NIKKI** repeat that they can’t provide any more detail during this meeting.  **SHERMAR** asks why Council has not called an extraordinary meeting to hold a vote of no confidence in all the Sabbatical Officers, rather than just Danial.  **LUCA** supports this idea and clarifies that it is within Council’s powers to do so.  **SAMUEL CHUN-LAM, UNIV** raises several questions about the investigation, including: When did investigation start? Who is doing the investigation, internal or external? What is the eime frame for investigation? How can student council be informed of any results from this investigation?  **NIKKI** clarifies that both proposers were told that they’ll be given a timeline as soon as possible.  **LUCA** questions Rosalie on what she recommended to the trustee board and asks if the proposers given a way to put forward their motions in a way that is separate to the investigation. Did trustee board give the proposers the opportunity to redraft motions in ways that could have gone to Council today? If so, why not?  **ROSALIE:** I pushed for that, don’t know whether it happened or not.  **LUCA** expresses concern that Rosalie, as a member of trustee board, does not know everything that happened.  **SHERMAR** calls a procedural motion to call two extraordinary meetings in 8th week, to hold motions of no confidence in each Sabbatical Officer.  The Chair invites questions and arguments for and against Shermar’s procedural motion. There are none.  The Chair moves to a vote:  For: 11  Against: 10  Shermar’s procedural motion passes by simple majority. [NOTE: THIS RESULT IS LATER STRUCK]  **ELEANOR MILLER, WADHAM** notes that it is scary to vote in front of other people and hopes that people will not be judged or pressured to vote in certain way. |  |
| **G** | **Reports from projects approved and confirmed by council**  **The**  **The Chair** invites questions or comments, there are none. |  |
| **H** | **Elections in Council**  **CHAIR** welcomes candidates to the floor.  **SEUN SOWUNMI** introduces themselves as from WADHAM doing history, running for chair.  **MICHAEL-AKOLADE AYODEJI** introduces himself as from UNIV, doing PPL, running for returning officer and steering committee.  **SEUN:** I think I would do a good job at it; I’ve enjoyed stepping in for college as chair. I would make sure that everyone gets the chance to be heard, no one gets shut down because I believe in the power of student voices and the importance of being heard.  **MICHAEL:** says that he is interested in running for roles more behind the scenes, to focus more on the agenda, he has had some experience in this in the past, interested this year in promoting student council to the student body, sharing what has and hasn’t been done. Notes that there has been good progress but want to improve. Wants to create a student council handbook which is understandable for everyone.  **CHAIR** thanks them both and states that voting will be online. |  |
| **I** | **Items for resolution**  **1. Arts and Culture representatives across Colleges**  Proposer: Mia Clement, Oxford SU  Seconder: Jennifer Lynam, Oxford SU  **Chair** invited questions and comments on this motion, there were none. The item goes to voting online.  **2. Changes to rules of Council**  Proposer: Niall, Merton  Seconder: Luca Di Bona, St Hildas  **NIALL** introduces the motion – with the current Council Rules, it can take a whole 2-3 months to pass a motion of no confidence, would have to be repeated across councils before referendum can be reached. Isaac thought to reduce burden to be met to call an extraordinary meeting: min. number would be 40 students and 3 constitutional nominations: easier to control the flow of council, can move quickly and decisively.  NIALL calls for an amendment to the motion, adding a third change to the Rules of council: striking the words “full member” and replacing them with “student member” in Council Rule 6.4.  **Amendment passes by a clear visual majority.**  **Chair** invited questions and comments on this motion, there were none. The item goes to voting online.  Before Council moved on to Items Below the Line, **ELEANOR** raises a procedural motion under Rule 6.6: to re-vote on Shermar’s procedural motions online, using a secret ballot.  **ELEANOR** argues that attendees felt pressured to vote a certain way and given that Shermar’s motion passed with such a small margin, delegates should be given the opportunity to vote privately.  **NIALL** questions if Eleanor can raise such a motion 10 minutes after the vote in question took place. **Eleanor** notes that she did raise aa concern immediately, and it would have been unreasonable to expect her to cite the exact Council Rule in the moment. T**he Chair** rules that Eleanor’s motion can be heard.  **LUCA** made point of information that Council can overturn Chair’s decision if they pass a procedural motion to that effect. Nobody raises a procedural motion to that effect.  **The Chair** invites arguments for and against Eleanor’s procedural motion.  **ELEANOR:** I have felt pressured to vote a certain way and think other people probably have too, plus online attendees have struggled to follow the votes. It would reduce stress for a lot of people.  **MICHAEL** agrees that he wants to take the vote online too.  **SHERMAR**: Can we vote on having *both* procedural motions re-done online?    **CHAIR** confirmed that this was okay after checking with Eleanor.  Chair moves to a vote  **Eleanor’s procedural motion passes with a clear visual majority.**  **CHAIR** confirms that the votes will be re-done online for the previous procedural motions.  Attendees talk over each other; **Chair** asks **Michael** to stop talking over others. **Michael** expressed displeasure in the **Chair**, the **Chair** apologises and clarifies that he was focused on stopping the clash in the room.  **Chair** checks if anyone has any questions or comments, no one does, then moves on. |  |
| **J** | **Items below the line**  **Chair** explains that motions below the line will pass automatically upon conclusion of the meeting, unless attendees would like to discuss or debate them.  **3. Add Handover Rep to LGBTQ+ Campaign Constitution**  Proposer: Joel Aston, St Hildas  Seconder: Bella Done  **ALFIE DAVIS, ST ANNES** shows support for Item 3 (Add handover rep to LGBTQ+ Campaign constitution)’s and asks if it could be amended to include Class Act?  **JACOB HARVEY, CORPUS CHRISTI** proposes a procedural motion to move the item above the line  **Jacob’s vote passes by clear visual majority**  **Alfie’s motion to amend Item 3 passes by clear majority** |  |
| **K** | **Items for discussion**  **1. Proposed increment of student course fees in Medical Science Division (MSD)** Proposer: Lukman Lawal  **LUKMAN** talks on the difficulties of funding at the moment as most students fund through masters funding but given inflation this is harder.  He states that he has engaged with the department about trying to keep course fees at the current rate, but his power is limited to his department. He wants to ensure that students (home and international) are protected when fees are rising.  **KENNEDY, CHAIR** points out that the International Student RepCom happening this week and that it might be an option for Lukman to look into more.  **DANIAL** and **Kennedy** both show support for Lukman’s idea and invite him to get in touch over email to work on this more.  **NIALL** adds a suggestion: In the past at Nuffield 2 postgrad students did a big survey and effectively convinced the college to increase grants available.  **LUCA:** Costs are very bad. Many students share those concerns and would be willing to do what we can, to bring forward motions next council, to demand it be worked on.  **CHAIR** checks if there are any other comments, there are none. |  |
| **L** | **Any other business**  Chair invites attendees to check in with SU staff in attendance if they want to ensure their views have been accurately recorded in the minutes.  **NIALL** wants to take a moment to appreciate Kennedy for chairing and Daisy and Sameyia [SU staff members] for supporting behind the scenes.  **CHAIR** notes council is closed at 19:16. |  |