**3rd Week Hilary Term 2024 Student Council**
TIME: 17:15
DATE: Tuesday 30th January 2024
LOCATION: Worcester 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

See Week 3 Michaelmas 2023, and Week 7 Michaelmas 2023: <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 LGBTQ+ Campaign, Disabilities Campaign, Women\*s Campaign, Class Act, and Environmental affairs campaign Written reports can be found here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/>

E. Reports from and questions to Divisional Representatives for MPLS and Social Sciences. Written reports can be found here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/>

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

G. Reports from projects approved and confirmed by council Written reports can be found here: <https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/>

H. Items for resolution

1. **Securing Vacation Residence for Vulnerable Students**
Motion to Mandate an SU Officer (VP UG Education & Access)
Proposer: Alfie Davis, St Anne’s
Seconder: Jenni Lynam, Oxford SU

**Student Council Notes**

1. The Class Act Committee, particularly Alfie Davis and Ellie King, have been working with the VP UG Education and Access, the University and the Domestic Bursars Committee to improve Vacation Residence for estranged, care experienced, and other vulnerable students.
2. Communicating, gathering data and bringing substantial policy change to improve Vacation Residence Policy has taken a significant amount time, beyond which can be efficiently and reasonably undertook by a team of volunteer students.
3. In 2018, the university signed the ‘Stand Alone Pledge’ guaranteeing affordable, year round accommodation to care-experienced and estranged students.
4. However, vacation residence policies across colleges remain grossly uneven, unbalanced and unsuitable for many student needs.
5. In particular, students who are not formally estranged or have difficult/abusive home lives can face major barriers to obtaining vacation residence, despite the impossibility or damage caused to them having to move from college accommodation to home.
6. Furthermore, many colleges fail to offer additional financial support to cover the cost of this residence when it is for welfare reasons, as compared to academic reasons, creating a two-tier system between students who require it and those who do not.

**Student Council Believes**

1. Vacation Residence should be flexible, reliable and affordable for all students who need it, particularly for those from vulnerable backgrounds.
2. Unreliable accommodation, or being forced to move back into a potentially harmful home environment is a major drawback on the welfare and academic performance of students.
3. The university is currently failing to fulfil the requirements of the Stand Alone pledge, but vacation residence policy must go beyond even what this pledge outlines.
4. Marginalised students are disproportionately likely to face these conditions and require vacation residence
5. Work to improve vac res provision across colleges should be a continual effort from the SU.

**Student Council Resolves**

To Mandate the President, VP UG Education and Access, VP Charities and Community and the VP Welfare to:

1. Work with colleges and university staff, alongside the Class Act Campaign and Common Rooms, to develop college specific, and university wide policy that ensures Vacation Residence is accessible on welfare grounds, particularly for Estranged, Care-Experienced and other vulnerable students who, for, it is a risk to return home during the vacations.
2. Hold the university to account and ensure they fulfil the entirety of the promises made in the 2018 Stand Alone Pledge.
3. Work towards a university-wide Vacation Residence policy at all colleges that achieves the following goals:
* Reliable - Vacation Residence is simple to attain, and is reliable and consistent in its allocation, so students who require it can have a stable place to stay both in and out of term time.
* Flexible - Residence is available for students year around, but also at their discretion. Ensure colleges and the university are broad and flexible in their distribution of vacation residence, defining ‘estrangement’ far beyond formal, governmentally-recognised estrangement, appreciating its complexity; as well as recognising the needs of a broad range of welfare needs that protect students with a difficult or abusive home life.
* Accessible - policies are simple to understand, and are clearly publicly advertised alongside other college and university residential information
* Affordable - Where possible, vacation residence granted on welfare grounds is free, or offered at a reduced rate, particularly if a college offers such for vacation residence on academic grounds.

2. **Organising a Second-Hand Sub Fusc Scheme**
Motion to Create SU Policy
Proposer: Alfie Davis, St Anne’s
Seconder: Francesca Clifford, Pembroke

**Student Council Notes**

1. Due to the withdrawal of various partnership organisations, the second-hand subfusc scheme for first year, disadvantaged students was discontinued this year.
2. The VP UG Education and Access, The Crankstart Council and Class Act worked to quickly implement a form of substitute, however demand was extremely high and supplies quickly ran out.
3. The scale and demands of such a full replacement scheme are difficult for a single committee of volunteer students to complete themselves
4. The SU has organised many clothes swaps and charity collections over the past few years.

**Student Council Believes**

1. Sub-fusc presents an additional cost, and confusing cultural barrier for many disadvantaged students
2. Second hand clothing schemes reduce consumption and waste, and hence have environmental barriers
3. A second-hand subfusc scheme presents a chance to reduce the university’s class barriers and environmental footprint, and is exactly the kind of project the SU should be running given its position as a central organising body between colleges.

**Student Council Resolves**

1. Mandates the VP UG Education and Access and the VP Activities and Community to, and makes policy that the SU should:
2. Organise a scheme for disadvantaged students to collect free, second hand subfusc at the beginning of the academic year
3. Coordinate and work with the Class Act Campaign, and Crankstart Scholars Council to organise such.
4. Work with JCR committees across all colleges to collect donations of subfusc from finalist students following their final exams in Trinity Term
5. Obtain funding to purchase second-hand subfusc at a low cost from sources such as charity shops. Coordinate and partner with local businesses to obtain such.
6. Ensure that this is well publicised to freshers via social media, JCR Committees, partnership organisations and through any other means appropriate.
7. Ensure the scheme is publicised sufficiently to OppOx students in summer, as many buy their subfusc before they are aware of such scheme

3. **Divestment**

Mandate a Sabbatical Officer
Proposer: Luca Di Bona, St. Hilda’s
Seconder: Katrina Taylor, Jesus

**Student Council Notes:**

1. In MT23, council passed the policy “Reform to the Ethical Code of Practice for Commercial Activities”, which restricts companies and organisations that the SU may “sell advertising space to; allow access to SU-organised events to; lend the SU name, logo, promotion or endorsement of any event which includes; or allow access to any SU-controlled physical or digital space”
2. The university works with organisations in a variety of ways, including careers, investments, and research contracts.
3. The careers service is responsible for determining which organisations it works with (for example inviting them to careers fairs).
4. The Committee to Review Donations and Research Funding determines which organisations the university accepts donations and research funding from.
5. Currently, this policy includes not accepting funding from illegal sources and tobacco companies.
6. It does not, for example, rule out funding from arms companies as the SU policy does.
7. The Investment Committee determines where investments are placed.
8. Policy currently allows for investment in arms companies, and indirect investment in fossil fuels and tobacco (ie investments in funds which partially but not primarily invest in these firms)

**Student Council Believes**

1. The university should not attempt to recruit students to organisations that the SU will not work with on ethical grounds
2. The university should not accept research funding or donations from organisations that the SU will not work with on ethical grounds
3. The university should not invest in companies that the SU will not work with on ethical grounds

**Student Council Resolves**

1. To mandate the President and VP Activities and Community to lobby the university to adopt the following as policy: that the university should not accept donations or research funding; invest in directly or indirectly; rent space to (including providing conference venues); or work with through the careers service (eg by advertising vacancies or allowing at careers fairs) from organisations that fulfil any of the following criteria:

a. Companies or organisations that have been proven to take away the rights of the individual

b. Companies or organisations that manufacture torture equipment

c. Companies or organisations that manufacture any other equipment that is used in the violation of human rights

d. Companies or organisations that derive (or should reasonably be believed to derive) more than 10% of their profits from the manufacture, transportation, sale, licensed production, or brokerage of armaments

e. Companies or organisations that derive (or should reasonably be believed to derive) more than 10% of their profits from the extraction, transportation, sale, processing or brokerage of oil, gas or coal

f. Companies or organisations that derive (or should reasonably be believed to derive) more than 10% of their profits from mining

g. Companies or organisations that derive (or should reasonably be believed to derive) more than 10% of their profits from factory farming or the testing of non-medical products on animals

h. Companies or organisations that are directly involved in the deportation of migrants

i. The Armed Forces of the United Kingdom or any other country

j. The Police Force of the United Kingdom or any other country, any Police Force operating in the United Kingdom or any other country

k. The Intelligence Agencies of the United Kingdom or any other country

l. Any other company or organisation which council makes policy to prevent the SU from having financial relationships with

m. Any other company or organisation which a reasonable person would believe to be involved in unethical conduct

n. For the avoidance of doubt, the Home Office falls under (h); the Department for Work and Pensions falls under (a); SIS/MI5, MI6, GCHQ, DI, NSA fall under (k) - see “Reform to the Ethical Code of Practice for Commercial Activities” for reasoning

1. To mandate the President and VP Activities and Community to lobby colleges to adopt the same policy, and to aid JCRs and MCRs in lobbying their colleges to adopt this, or part of this, policy
2. To mandate the President and VP Activities and Community to begin by lobbying for divestment from fossil fuels

4. **Trustee Board Accountability & Transparency**

Motion to amend a governing document (Bye-Laws)
Proposer: Luca Di Bona, St. Hilda’s
Seconder: Joel Aston, St Hilda's

**Student Council Notes:**

1. According to Article 40.1 of the articles of association "The Board must keep minutes of all: (a) resolutions of Members in general meeting and of the Board, and (b) proceedings at general meetings and of the Board, and any minutes, signed by the chair of the meeting, or by the chair of the next succeeding meeting, shall, as against any Member or Trustee, be sufficient evidence of the resolution or proceedings"
2. Article 33 allows decisions to be made outside of meetings
3. According to the SU, decisions made outside of meetings under article 33 are captured within the minutes of the following meeting under matters arising
4. Minutes of general meetings are regularly not published until following the next meeting
5. Council is aware of decisions that trustees have made outside of meetings, including changing the rules of council at the start of MT23 as well as a routine role in considering student council submissions
6. Sabbatical trustees and student trustees are voted by students, and recallable by them
7. Sabbatical officers are already mandated to provide a termly report to council

**Student Council Believes**

1. Transparency is important
2. Students have a right to know, in a timely manner, about decisions made by the trustee board

**Student Council Resolves**

1. To insert into the bye-laws after 10.4 bye-law 10.5, 10.6, 10.7 and 10.8 the below

“10.5 As part of their report under bye-law 10.1 (b), the President must include in their report a list of all decisions the trustee board has made outside of general meetings since the submission of their previous report given to council under this bye-law. If the decision was about a confidential matter that the trustee board cannot legally share with council, this bye-law does not apply. ”

“10.6 Where the President is not able to submit a report to council, or there is no President, another sabbatical officer should include the information outlined in bye-law 10.5 in their report to council. In exceptional circumstances, a sabbatical officer may instead inform council that there are exceptional circumstances, and then publish the information outlined in bye-law 10.5 as quickly as possible.”

“10.7 Bye-laws 10.5 and 10.6 only apply to decisions made after the end of 4th week of Hilary Term 2024, and do not remove the responsibility of trustees to include decisions made outside of general meetings in the minutes of the following general meeting.”

I. Items Below the Line

1. **Campaign’s Student Council Delegate Entitlement**
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 change Bye-Law 9.2(c) to indicate that all Campaigns are entitled to send three delegates to Council.

See Appendix One for proposed change to the Bye-Laws

2. **Class Act Constitution: Adding an International Rep**
Motion to Amend a Campaign Constitution
Proposer: Alfie Davis, St Anne’s
Seconder: Eleanor Miller, Wadham

**Student Council Notes:**

1. Disadvantaged International and Year Abroad Students face unique financial barriers when attending Oxford, both in terms of tuition fees and greater difficulty accessing student support funds.
2. International students, particularly those from a disadvantaged background, can feel excluded from events that focus heavily on British culture. Similarly, they can feel excluded from events for international students due to different class backgrounds, and financial ability.
3. Francesca Clifford, the Care Leavers Officer on the Class Act Committee, has been undertaking substantial work in compiling, promoting and improving financial assistance schemes for Class Act students on their year abroad, however this is a substantial task, well beyond the scope of her original role, and one that should continue following the election of a new committee.

**Student Council Believes**

1. The diverse cultures and unique struggles of the international student committee should be represented in Class Act’s work
2. International and Year Abroad students, their perspectives, and the projects working to further their interests, are important, and should be permanently entrenched on the Class Act Committee.

**Student Council Resolves**

1) Add section 10.23 to the Class Act constitution, which reads as follows:

*10.23 The International Rep is responsible for:*

*a) Representing the views of International Students to the Campaign*

*b) Assess, promote and develop the funding available for International and Year Abroad Class Act Students*

*c) Liaise with the International Students Campaign and other bodies*

2) Insert clause 5.1(v), to read “International Rep”

3. **Environmental Affairs Campaign Constitution Amendment**

Motion to amend SU Governing Document (Campaign Constitution)
Proposer: Luca Di Bona, St. Hilda’s
Seconder: Katrina Taylor, Jesus

**Student Council Notes:**

1. The Environmental Affairs campaign currently has a limited number of spaces on committee
2. The Environmental Affairs campaign constitution allows for changes to this constitution to be made by student council
3. The current Environmental Affairs campaign constitution (the version on the SU website as of 24/1/24 - available here (https://web.archive.org/web/20240124172156/https://www.oxfordsu.org/asset/Organisation/28924/Environmental-Affairs-Constitution.pdf) refers to roles that don’t exist, or exist under another name

**Student Council Believes**

1. The roles of college reps officer, communications officer, outreach and community officer, divestment officer, climate education officer and sustainability officer are useful roles alongside co-chairs, secretary, and treasurer.

**Student Council Resolves**

1. To adopt as the Environmental affairs campaign constitution the version available at this archive link - https://web.archive.org/web/20240124172156/https://www.oxfordsu.org/asset/Organisation/28924/Environmental-Affairs-Constitution.pdf with the changes outlined below.
2. Replace Article III section 1 with: “The Campaign shall be led by an Executive Committee, composed of the following positions:
3. 2 co-chairs
4. Secretary
5. Treasurer
6. Communications officer
7. College Reps officer
8. Outreach and community officer
9. Divestment officer
10. Climate education officer
11. Sustainability officer”
12. Replace Article II section 2e with “The communications officer is responsible for managing campaign social media and shall work on increasing engagement”
13. To add after Article II section 2f the following:

a. “The Outreach and community officer is responsible for liaising with other groups campaigning for principles aligning with the campaign in the university and the city”

b. “The Divestment officer is responsible for campaigning for the university to cut ties with the fossil fuels industry and other polluting industries”

c. “The Climate education officer is responsible for helping educate students on sustainability and environmental justice, and campaigning for the university curriculum to better do this”

d. “The Sustainability officer is responsible for campaigning for the university and SU to become more sustainable”

J. Project Proposals for resolution

1. Markers for Mindfulness
Project proposer: Daniel Kelly-Lloyd, Lady Margaret Hall

**Project description**

In the wake of budget cuts that have left state education in silent suffering, I set up ‘Markers for Mindfulness’ in January 2020 to collect, sort, and distribute donations of unused stationery to schools in need, in the hope that freed funding can be used to champion the cause of mental health. Over the past four years, nearly £60,000 worth of stationery has been provided to schools in my local area (the nearby town of Didcot!) and beyond, with over 100 large boxes filled with pens, paper, scissors, and the 'holy grail' (for teachers who are often forced to use their own pay check to source them!) item that is the glue stick. This year I hope to launch the project in Oxford to support state schools in the local area - I myself attended a primary school in Blackbird Leys, Oxford's largest council estate until age 8. My ultimate aim is to have ‘franchises’ of the project across the nation, with donations of unused stationery from the public distributed to their own local communities everywhere!

**Project Aims**

* To set up a network of ‘collection points’ in locations across Oxford, which when advertised by a social media campaign, will source donations of stationery from the local community!
* To organise a team of students to help me collect and sort stationery from these points which will then be distributed through a termly ‘Larder’ event, allowing teachers to come directly to *us* to access what they need.
* By the end of my time in Oxford, to establish ‘Markers for Mindfulness’ as a known name to local schools, leaving a legacy that will continue to support our schools.

**Project Spending Request**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Amount (£)** | **What is this spend for?**  |
| Approx. £50 | Storage Boxes (Plastic) that can be branded for each ‘Collection Point’ in various locations across Oxford, allowing the public to donate stationery with ease to support the project.  |
| Approx. £50 | Large Carboard ‘Moving Boxes’ which will be given to teachers attending the ‘Larder Events’ to collect what they need and carry their stationery back to schools.  |
| **Total Spend =** £100 |

K. Items for Discussion

**1. Extraordinary Meeting Processes**
Isaac Chase-Rahman
Rules of Council 4.11 states how on extraordinary meeting can be called - this can be done by 5 Constituent Organisations, 100 Student Members, a procedural motion, or the Executive. In light of the change to Council schedule last term from 4 meetings a term (once a fortnight) to 2 meetings a term (once a month), it should be made easier to call an extraordinary meeting. Discussion on whether the numbers of constituent organisations and student members numbers should be changed to. Recommended starting point at 3 Constituent Organisations and 40 Student Members.

L. Any other business