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

**Tuesday February 28th, 2023**

**Hybrid-model- 5:30PM**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Agenda** | **Actions** |
|  | **Welcome**  **Yasmin Poole (Chair of Council)** welcomed council members to the last hybrid council meeting of the term and was appreciative of everyone’s effort to attend in the midst of exam stress. | To note |
| **A** | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**  The current **Chair (Yasmin Poole)** opened the floor to questions and comments regarding the minutes of the previous meeting and any matters arising from the minutes.  Minutes to the previous meeting can be accessed [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/23ht7w/MINUTES-5th-Week-Hilary-Term-2023-Student-Council-Final..docx)  A question was raised on the approach that the SU will take to ensure that changes to the first interpreting provisions will be implemented   The current Chair address this my stating her willingness to make sure that everyone feels included in the discussion but is also happy shorten a discussion in awareness of time. She also states her respect for the procedural changes. | To receive |
| **B** | **Matters arising from the minutes**  **Joshua** states that the minutes in 3rd week did not express his position on the matter accurately and would like it to be corrected. | To receive |
| **C** | **Elections in Council**  **Chair of Council**: Chair of Council is elected in 7th Week Council each term to serve for the following term. They are responsible for the running, operation, and pre-planning of the meeting as well as sitting on Steering Committee. Council’s decisions have an impact across all levels of both the University and the Student Union, and as Chair you will be responsible for ensuring that this student decision making body is as effective as it can be.  **Returning Officer:** The Returning Officer is responsible for all things to do with Elections and voting. In Council they look after the electronic voting pads. During Oxford SU's Leadership Elections they chair the Elections Committee, handle complaints and count the results!  **Steering Committee (x2):** Steering Committee is comprised of two elected student steering members, the Chair, the President, and the Returning Officer. Steering is the committee tasked with deciding the agenda for the coming Council. They meet the week before to discuss whether submissions should make it to the agenda, whether they need to be amended, or whether they require ‘steering’ to another committee first. Steering are also the group responsible for ensuring that an All Student Consultation is held, if called for.  **Chair of Council**  **Yasmin Poole** feels that she will be able to bring the experiences from the 2 previous terms of her being chair of council to the next term. She has also learned a lot from dealing with tricky procedural roles and would like to make everyone feel safe and welcome in the meeting as Chair of Council.  **Results** Total valid votes 15 **Reopen nominations: 0**  **Gabriel: 15**  Yasmin is now elected  **Returning officer  Gabriel (Mansfield) - the candidate** expresses his enjoyment in working with the council and would love to be able to further his participation and to aid the Chair.  Niall (Merton) asks what is Gabriel’s favorite clause.  Gabriel states that he is a fan of law 10 – the scrutiny committee and the role that they entail  Another speaker asks about what are the possible broader roles of the returning officer  Gabriel responds with how the main role of the RO is to ensure the smooth running of elections, referenda and keeping attention on rules and procedures.  The current Chair (Yasmine Poole) asks what the candidate will do if he will have conflicting ideas about the best course of action is if the chair, president and the RO have conflicting ideas.  **Gabriel** recognizes the difficulty of such occasions and responds with that situations such as there should be a majority decision and that how he would act should depend on the circumstance  Joshua asks if the candidate thinks that the students should have more operational control  Gabriel states that there is a limit on the students’ role on the operational control and that any concerns can be raised through the sabbatical officers. The possible increase can be to expand our support to the sabbatical officers. He recognizes the decisions made by the university on important matters such as financial matters should be left to the hands of the professionals but does believe that students should have a say in matters that affect us. **Results** Total valid votes 15 **Reopen nominations: 1**  **Gabriel: 14**  Gabriel is now elected  **Steering committee**  **Joe** (Current Returning Officer) runs for steering committee and states that he is passionate about not losing important actions points in the midst of discussion and increasing the clarity of the council’s rules  **Inam (Blackfriars)** also runs and states his experience as president of student council of his previous undergraduate university and the board of a non-profit. He also voices that as a graduate student, a part of a PPH and his identity of being a queer muslim can help bring forth some groups and voices that are not often heard  Isaac states that his experience of 4 terms in the student council and 3 terms as corpus Christi president gave him a lot of experience chairing meetings and seeing discussions going down in different and unexpected ways  **Yasmin** asks if there are any overarching values that they would bring to their positions to help frame their decisions.  Inam states actions should be taken to include voices that are not at the table. Especially as there are 30 people in this room but there are thousands of students at Oxford.   Isaac also try his best for everyone to be able to speak openly and honestly  Joe points out that, behind the scenes, in deciding what to put on the agenda as steering committee people should always be trying to advocate for more voices to be heard  **Results** Total valid votes 15 **Reopen nominations: 0**  **Joe Bell: 9**  **Isaac Chase-Rahman: 1**  **Inam Teja: 5**  Joe and Inam is now elected | To receive |
|  | **Report from the President**  Generalcom and academic coms opportunities for reps to come to the SU. Expresses his support for Sophia’s role in combating period poverty in the Oxford Period campaign. He reports the progress on consent work shop training. He also mentions his role in negotiation of graduate rent. |  |
|  | **VP Welfare Report**  Grace reports Oxford Art week with events including a writing competition and a photography workshop. Now formally first aid and mental health trained, Grace is thinking of writing up a welfare training for the students |  |
| **D** | **Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees**  Report submitted online and can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/23ht7w/Trustee-board-report-HT-23.docx) |  |
| **E** | **Reports from and questions to Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality and Suspended Students' Campaign**   Report submitted online and can be found [here](https://youtu.be/0-lRAZNznZQ) |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **F** | **Reports from and questions to PG and UG Humanities Representatives**  Report submitted online and can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/23ht7w/Campaign-Report-Suscam-HT2023.docx) |  |
| **G** | **G. Report from and questions to the Trustee Board**  Report is to be submitted   There was a request to access the meeting minute of the December board meeting, which is yet to be published. |  |
| **H** | **H.** **Report from and questions to the Returning Officer**  Report is to be submitted week 1 of Trinity |  |
|  | **Report from VP grads** The VP reports that she reviewed in how Covid impacted the DPhil students. She also looked into how different scholarships are distributed at Oxford, the matters of PTS and the matters of international students . They are also selecting the course and division reps. |  |
|  | **Report from VP communities and charities**  Anna-Tina Jashapara is starting to film videos so that communication can reach the wider student group. They have also concluded the graduate rent negotiation. Sustainability events were also run and they are trying to work on their committee papers with regards to sustainability. Campaign is also on the way to keep Campsfield closed. |  |
|  | **Report from Vice-President Access & Academic Affairs**  Work with the center for teaching to make workload more manageable and that quality of teaching is guaranteed within all the colleges. |  |
|  | **Report from VP women** The report for VP women is submitted online and can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/23ht7w/vp-women-wk7-ht.docx) |  |
|  | **Report from Suspended students campaign**  The report is submitted online and can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/23ht7w/Campaign-Report-Suscam-HT2023.docx) |  |
| **I** | **Items for Resolution  AGENDA  1. Motion of Commendation (Vice-President Access & Academic Affairs)**  **Council notes:**   1. Where there is merit, a motion of commendation can and should be brought   **Council believes:**  In the past few weeks alone, Jade has been a crucial part of the workings of the Suspended Students’ Campaign; and it wouldn’t be able to continue without her work. - This includes both advocating with the Campaign in meetings with the head of SWSS & the Secretariat of Conference of Colleges, but also advocating on the Campaign’s behalf to Prescom, and spreading the word on what the campaign’s doing. - Alongside this, she’s helping the campaign on a paper consisting massive policy change across the colleges; focused on estranged and care leaver students who are the most vulnerable and will advocate that alongside the Campaign to the Senior Tutors Committee. - Outside of the scope of the campaign, she has also helped launch a lecture recording campaign with DisCam and has taken an active role in making sure that discussions as to best practice; and carrying out the next steps past that is taken, including discussing said policies with faculties. - This doesn’t even begin to scratch the iceberg of the work that Jade has done for the student body in the last few weeks alone; never-mind in her time in the role. This merits commendation.  **Council resolves:**   1. To Commend Jade Calder (The Current Vice President for Access and Academic Affairs) for the incredible work she’s been doing; and thank her for tirelessly putting the interests of the student body first.   **Proposer:** Gabriel Lazar, Mansfield College  **Seconder:** Connie Hammond, Mansfield College  **1. Discussion on Motion of Commendation (Vice-President Access & Academic Affairs)**  Gabriel expresses his gratitude to Jade’s help.   No opposition  END OF DISCUSSION  **Results** Method- simple majority  Total valid votes 18 **For: 15 Against:0 Abstain:3**  THIS MOTION HAS PASSED |  |
|  | **AGENDA**   1. **Rules Changes**   **Council Notes:**   1. It established the Working Group on SU Rules in the 2nd meeting of this Term. 2. The Group has produced a set of interim proposals for altering the Rules of Council. 3. The Group has approved this set of interim proposals without opposition. 4. A summary of the changes is as follows: to    1. Re-establish the previous (until Covid) practice of restricting Council voting by default to those present at the meeting.    2. Re-establish the previous (until 2021) practice of publishing how Council members voted. Make available to all students the list of members of Council.    3. Require proposers and (for motions for resolution) seconders to be present at the meeting. Allow them to drop motions, but prevent a motion supported by another present person from being withdrawn.    4. Completely restructure/redraft Rules of Council    5. Formalise Chair’s accepted power to interpret Rules of Council. Specify how the Chair should use their casting vote.    6. Require the RO to maintain, and seek termly updates to, a list of members. Membership expires after one year by default.    7. Require all officers of Council (Chair, RO, Steering, Scrutiny) to maintain handover documents, to be available to anyone doing their job/succeeding them.    8. Require appropriate records (‘minutes’) to be taken of Council meetings, especially including records of any votes/decisions taken. Require minutes to be approved at next meeting, and specify that they may not be subsequently altered, and should be available to all students.    9. Clarify procedure for Elections and Bye-Elections in Council and extend deadline for nominations.   **Council Believes:**   1. The new Rules specify clearly current practice which was ambiguously specified or left to the SU’s discretion. 2. The new proposals make welcome alterations to Council, which will improve its efficiency and the SU’s democratic structures as a whole. 3. Council should accept the proposals.   **Council Resolves:**   1. To make the proposed changes, contained in the appendix, to the Rules of Council.   **Proposer:** Niall Pearson-Shaul, Merton JCR **Seconder:** Joshua Loo, Oriel JCR  *The appendix contains the proposed amended directions to the Working Group.*  **2. Discussion on rule changes**  **Niall (Merton)** summarizes his motion and the mechanisms to pass his motion and rules.  **Michael (President)** askes what they have done to make the rules accessible to marginal groups such as disabled members. He also asks if there are steps taken to consult everyone.  **Joshua (Oriel)** explains that since the physical presence is not required, this motion does not unintentionally exclude the disabled members.  **Amendment** Joshua makes an amendment to point 2c in response to Michael’s question and now state that consulting student members elected, the board and committee members on issues, recommendations and campaigns  No opposition No further comments  END OF DISCUSSION  **Results for Rule changes** Method- simple majority  Total valid votes 18 **For: 14 Against:0 Abstain:4**  THIS MOTION HAS PASSED  **Results for Changes to the Working Group on SU Rules (in the appendix of rule changes)** Method- simple majority  Total valid votes 18 **For: 14 Against:0 Abstain:4**  THIS MOTION HAS PASSED |  |
|  | **Student Council mandates SU President and VP Liberation and Equality and to support Oxford Period Poverty**  **Council Notes:**  The Oxford Period is a campaign for free periods at the University of Oxford, and against period poverty everywhere.  The Oxford Period was created out of a chance meeting between Maia (New College) and Sofia (Worcester College) at a Gender Repcom in the SU, in late 2021. Through sharing their experiences with other women's and gender equality officers, they began to realise the great discrepancies between colleges in providing free and accessible period products. After creating a survey to analyse the situation in each individual college and common room, and contacting The Cambridge Period Project, they decided to create a new society for Oxford. They’ve since built a team of college representatives, held events to destigmatise the conversation around periods, and are pushing to formally present their proposal to the university.  To encourage Oxford University to establish a long-term, adequate standard of period care provision across all colleges and departments. ​ Hosting events and sharing resources in order to start an important conversation around menstruation and to raise awareness of period poverty ​ Raising money for charities that are actively fighting period poverty ​ Working together with other groups tackling period poverty to increase education surrounding menstruation  **Council Believes:**  That although some colleges and departments of the University have existing schemes to provide free period products, there are great disparities in the range provided, ease of access, and origin and amount of funding. This must be addressed.  In the core goals of The Oxford Period campaign namely:   * To encourage Oxford University to establish a long-term, adequate standard of period care provision across all colleges and departments. ​ * Hosting events and sharing resources in order to start an important conversation around menstruation and to raise awareness of period poverty ​ * Raising money for charities that are actively fighting period poverty ​ * Working together with other groups tackling period poverty to increase education surrounding menstruation   **Council Resolves:**   1. To mandate for three years the SU President and VP Women, as well as future VP Liberation and Equality and SU President to work with The Oxford Period and wherever possible assist in the achievement of core goals.   **Proposer**: Maia Hamilton, New College  **Seconder**: Michael-Akolade Ayodeji, SU President  **Discussion on Student Council mandates SU President and VP Liberation and Equality and to support Oxford Period Poverty**  Michael reinstates the key importance of this motion and how having access to period products should be considered a basic necessity  No opposition  No further comments  END OF DISCUSSION  **Results** Method- simple majority  Total valid votes 18 **For: 18 Against:0 Abstain:0**  THIS MOTION HAS PASSED |  |
|  | **J. Item for Discussion**  **Title: Concern over Police Treatment of peaceful and non-voilent student protestors.**  TW: Racism  **Council Notes**  The Government proposed the Public Order Bill in 2022 proposes the crimilaisation of methods of civil disobeideince and peaceful protest.the strengthening of powers to police non-violent protests has been critiqued as likely resulting in broader discrimination and  In the Scrutiny of the Bill, the Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) stated “The right to peaceful protest is a cornerstone of democracy, which should be championed and protected rather than stifled”  Friends of the Earth also stated concerns about” the impact that extending police stop and search powers to protests (both with and without suspicion) could have on those wishing to attend peaceful demonstrations. The fear of being subjected to an invasive stop and search could deter the public from joining protests essential to voice the need to protect nature and accelerate climate action, having a worrying chilling effect outlined by the JCHR”  **Council Further Notes**  On the Tuesday 21st of February the Oxford Union announced that they will be hosting on the Thursday 23rd February at 8pm a discussion panel between three ambassadors of the cosigning states of ‘Abraham Accords’. Shortly after, students and activists expressed their intention to protest this event.  The VP for Graduates received concerns from students regarding this event and organised a meeting on Wednesday 22nd February with the President of the Oxford Union. In this meeting they discussed issues raised by post-gradate students including the security and safety of student activists who plan to peacefully protesting the event.  At 18:00 hrs on Thursday 23th of Febraury, upon noticing heavy police presence, the SU President relayed concerns of tension and escalation between police and student activists directly with the President of the Oxford Union. During the event, The SU President received reports of racial profilling and police intimidation from students. These were corroborated by numerous tweet and student journalist reporting e.g. (<https://www.oxfordstudent.com/2023/02/23/racial-profiling-students-removed-and-threatened-arrests-protests-against-tzipi-hotovely-at-the-oxford-union> )  After the event concluded, the SU President met breifly President of the Oxford Union, this was later followed up with in in writing, reiterating concerns raised more formally and arranging online meeting the next day. It was concluded(as of 3pm Friday 24th of February):   * As of present the Oxford Union has not received any complaints in relation to the conduct of any individual during the event on the vening of Thursday 23rd February or in connection with the protest that occurred during. * The SU President will write (or aid in the submission of) complaints to the Independent Office for Police Conduct, subject to consent of students who provided acocunt of mistreatment * The Oxford Union will looking into the possibility of writing to IOPC should member of the Oxford Union come forth with complaints/accounts of mistreatment. * The SU President shall seek recommendations from students on further action to be taken on this matter.   This mistreatment of studnet by law enforcement does not provide a conducive or welcoming environment. Student Council is asked to discuss this issue and suggest any further action members might want to recommend.    **Proposer:** Michael-Akolade Ayodeji, SU President  **Seconder:**Jade Calder, VP Access and Academic Affairs  **Shreya** speaks in favor of this motion and states that she was a witness of racial profiling during the protest  **Hamzah** states that the police did not reach out to the organisers and did not inform them of the actions that they planned to take. The lack of dialogue did not send a message of willingness to corporate.  **Michael** highlights the indimidation he experienced from the excessive police presence and how important that actions should be taken before the vac as it would be 6 weeks till we return. **Anvee** talks about her experience of being racially profiled and how the student reporters were forced to leave and were threatened arrest. She encourages the SU to take further action regarding this matter.  **Niall** states that actions should be taken to ensure that future protests are safe and that student feel supported during them.  **Discussion on concern over Police Treatment of peaceful and non-voilent student protestors.** |  |
| **K** | **Any other business**  **Gabriel** highlights the detriment to the lack of promotion and adverntising with regards to the SU elections and believes that it was inadequately run  **Michael** responds that the links were conferred through campaign repcom and that it has been actioned  END OF DISCUSSION |  |