**Student Council 7th Week Michaelmas Term 2022**

**Tuesday 22nd Nov 2022**

**5:30 PM**

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| **Item** | **Agenda** | **Actions** |
|  | **Welcome**  Yasmin Poole (Chair of Council) welcomed council members to 7th meeting council meeting of the term. | To note |
| **A** | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**  Chair 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/representation/student-council/22mt7w/). | To receive |
| **B** | **Matters arising from the minutes**  There were no matters arising | 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.  **Elections Committee (x3):** Elections Committee work behind the scenes during Oxford SU’s Leadership Elections to ensure they are run fairly and properly. From making rules on the use of social media, to the use of mailing lists, to the rules surrounding endorsements. Elections Committee is only its second year so you can play a key role in shaping its future and how it should operate.  The first candidate for Committee Chair is Yasmin Poole  **Yasmin**: Yeah, so I was the chair for this time and that was super fun. And the reason why I want to run again is I feel like I'm starting to get more comfortable in this role and I'm really keen to continue it for next time if I'm elected. So my priority as it has been here is making it feel friendly and accessible. And I always love seeing new faces on here as well because we're representing the student body. In terms of my other board experience I've on a number of I've been on not for profit or director in Australia, and that's kind of given me a sense of how to run meetings, especially efficient meetings, which is really important because we all have important things to do, or sit outside of here. So in a way that's as efficient but also as inclusive as possible. So thanks  **Full nomination can be found** [**here**](https://www.oxfordsu.org/pageassets/representation/student-council/21mt7w/Asif-Khadim-Malik-Chair.docx)  The first candidate for RO is Joe Bell  **Bell**: I've been in this role for a term, like Yasmin I'm getting more comfortable in the role and I would like to continue it for another term, especially since I've sort of been thinking a lot and doing a bit of preparation for the annual elections. I'd like to see that through to its completion. I've also been returning officer for my JCR and helped out in other elections across Oxford. So, I have experience.  RO opens floor to questions for the position of RO.  A question was raised for Poole about an email that was sent to them in regards to gaining more information about the role of Chair. The email was unanswered; was this because the Poole (the current chair) did not want competition for the position?  Poole apologized for missing the email and noted the challenges they are experiencing with the email software they use. They offered any student keen to contact them to do so via multiple sources, such as Teams and their person Oxford email.  **Joe Bell:** Do you have any sort of concrete ideas of things you might like to change for the next time?  **Poole**: I don't have anything in particular because I think it's chair it's mainly running meetings efficiently and having good communication with the sabbatical officers.  Question to Bell: Any thoughts on how to improve elections?  **Bell**: the principal thing is just good communications and to encourage students to run for office, as contested elections get higher turnout and greater engagement are also better for democracy. Happy to hear any suggestions anyone has for achieving that.  Question to Bell: What do you think common should do to increase turn out to elections and number of candidates?  **Bell**: I think in general, it's very important to get common rooms to promote these roles to their members, because you're more likely to listen to someone you know. So I think it's important to promote these roles and so I would definitely work on getting engagement.  Question to Bell: What will you do about the communications about elections?  **Bell**: I will get in touch and work on getting the communication sorted.  The first candidate for **Steering Committee** is Isaac Chase-Rahman.  **Isaac**: I am the outgoing JCR president at Corpus. I have prior experience dealing with agendas and making amendments. I know the ins and outs of bureaucracy in multitudes of committees and what is expected to happen in these settings.  The second candidate for **Steering Committee** is Yasmine Poole.  **Yasmine**: I have not much more to add. I would like to help out on the committee as I can if I am re-elected chair. I would like to make it’s the best committee possible and I would like to continue being part of it.  RO opens floor to questions for the position of Steering Committee.  Question for Poole: How will you deal with serious controversies?  **Poole** asked to clarify the question, and proceed to talk about how they would deal with sensitive topics like sexual consent.  The first candidate for is **Elections Committee** is Keelan Daye.  The candidate was absent and their manifesto was read by RO. “I was an inaugural member of the elections committee and I am hoping to continue in this role.”  The second candidate for is **Elections Committee** is Isaac Chase-Rahman  I have been elections officer at Corpus Christi and I have experience with making sure elections are transparent and fair. I have a view point that is useful and making sure elections are run well.  RO opens floor to questions for the position of **Elections Committee**.  Question to Isaac: How do you wish to increase engagement in elections?  **Isaac**: It is important to get people to turn up to elections. There is a benefit to video format of elections – but people feel disconnected this way.  **Results:**  ***Chair of Council***  Total: 12  Yasmin – 9  Reopen Nominations- 3  ***Returning Officer***  Total – 11  Joe Bell- 10  Reopen Nominations- 1  ***Steering Committee*** Total- 12  Yasmin- 4  Isaac - 7  Reopen Nominations- 1  ***Elections Committee***  Total- 12  Keelan- 4  Isaac - 7  Reopen Nominations- 1 | To receive |
| **D** | **Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees**  Chair informed members that full officer written reports can be accessed on [student council website](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/22ht7w/).  Chair opens questions to President.  Question from Alicia [Last name]: Have the SU sabbatical officers done any more work on NDAs.  [Name?]: Can you provide any more details about the action plans you mention in your report.  **Michael**: The main points can be found in the President’s report.  VP Graduates  Shreya’s full report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/22mt7w/).  Chair opens questions to VP Graduates. There are none.  VP Access & Academic Affairs.  Jade’s full report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/22mt7w/).  Chair opens questions to VP Access & Academic Affairs. Jade was not present; questions were accepted via email.  VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities  Grace’s full report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/22mt7w/).  Chair opens questions to VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities.  Will welfare training include peer support training?  **Grace**: It is the same type of training.  Can there be a mode standard code of conduct to deal with harassment within student societies?  **Grace**: harassment training and policy is a new type of training that doesn’t exist at the moment. Happy to chat more about this further.  VP Charities & Community  Anna-Tina’s report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/22mt7w/).  Chair opens questions to VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities. There were none.  VP Women  Ellie’s report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/22mt7w/).  Chair opens questions to VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities.  A concern was raised around the lack of communication and consultation between the VP Women and the LGBTQ+ Campaign.  **Ellie**: My intention was not to alienate trans and non-binary students, and I do apologize for the issue raised. I have not done a lot to educate myself about topics related to matters of importance to trans-people.  **Alicia**: Is anything done on staff-student relationship policy and did the LGBTQ campaign consult on the trans non binary inclusion in sport?  **Clay**: You said previously that there were limitations on what you could do in the first month of the role as you didn't receive that document from the last VP women until three weeks after you started. So when did you officially start your role and when did your handover finish?  **Alicia**: The talks about non-binary inclusion in sport are in their beginning stages. In regards to the second question, we had a two week handover June-July; then induction/HR meetings. at the end of the 1st week is when I received the handover document. I fully started my tole at the beginning of September.  Name: Have you educated yourself on the consultation process?  **Alicia**: Yes, I went through the trustee minutes and the presentation that was in there. what I said in the interview did not undermine the democratic vote of the student council.  Further questions can be sent via email | To receive |
| **F**  **K** | **Reports from and questions to Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality and Suspended Students' Campaign**  Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality Co-Chairs were not present. Their report will be provided next term. Suspended Students' Campaign were not present. Their report will be provided next term.  Question: What is happening with officers who haven’t presented their reports?  Michael: If report isn’t presented at the next meeting, actions will be taken as noted in the SU Constitution.  **G.** It Happens Here full report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/22mt7w/).  **Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments on officer reports**  No further comments for It Happens Here Campaign  **Name** (online): What's being done with the staff student relationship policy work.  **Alicia**: a few colleges got to chance their policies. The issues with student staff relations is that this also exists in departments, and post-graduate divisions, and policies that do exist were not being enforced. This work will take a lot of time and effort.  **H. Report from and questions to the Trustee Board**  Questions were posed to Trustee Board Chairs.  Full report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/22mt7w/).  **I. Report from and questions to the Budget report.**  Report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/22mt7w/).  **J.** **Report from and questions to the Scrutiny Committee**  Report can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/22mt7w/).  **Clay**: I was informed the document was sent on 10th of July which was within the handover period and before you officially start the roll, as you've stated, given this Why did you find it appropriate to state in the professional scrutiny meeting and on public record? that this wasn't provided to you until you officially started your role at the expense reputation of a previous sabbatical officer?  **Alicia**: There was miscommunication of when I officially begin and the handover document.  **Report from and questions to British Sign Language Project Course**  British Sign Languageisn’t recognized by the University of Oxford as a language. The motion asks for 7,000 GBP to support free classes | To receive |
| **L** | **Items for Resolution** | To receive |

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|  | **Student Council to approve ratifying Divisional Representatives**  **Council Notes:**   1. Currently, Oxford SU does not have a formalised policy on conflicts of interest in any of its governing documents - Candidates running for positions in the SU do not have to declare any organisations which they are currently serving on the committee of, or have been elected to 2. Candidates running for positions in the SU do not have to declare any organisations which they are currently serving on the committee of, or have been elected to 3. A similar motion to cover the first steps of the process, regarding the pre-approval stages, passed in Student Council in Week 1 of Trinity Term 2022   **Council Believes:**   1. Conflicts of interest due to roles or affiliations elsewhere risk compromising the integrity of some of the most essential officers within the SU 2. Furthermore, especially high commitment additional roles may compromise the quality of work in the Sabbatical role, worsening student satisfaction with the SU 3. Whilst Sabbatical Officers/Sabbatical Officer candidates have a right to associate with whatever organisations they choose, their constituents should equally have the right to scrutinise them for this both before and after their election 4. The roles a candidate chooses to take on once elected remain highly relevant, as it may impact the choices they make as a Sabbatical Officer 5. These concerns are most relevant for Sabbatical Officers as the only paid elected representatives of the student body within the Oxford SU, instead of also applying these to trustees or NUS delegates   **Council Resolves:**  Add the following clause to the Election Rules document:  1. 17: Roles and affiliations When the campaign period begins, candidates must declare any roles within any relevant organisations to which they were elected or appointed since their matriculation.  Relevant organisations are those which have the reasonable potential to influence a candidate’s behaviour in office, including but not limited to: - Student societies, both Oxford exclusive and for the UK more widely - College JCRs or MCRs - The Oxford Union Debating Society - Student publications (e.g., The Oxford Student, the Cherwell, This list need not include any roles where the candidate was under paid employment. This information should be publicly visible as part of a candidates’ manifesto, listed as relevant experience or disclosures.  **Chair opened the floor for members to vote on the motion until the following day 6:00 pm.**  Student Council to approve ratifying Divisional Representatives.    Votes 18  For 10  Against 3  Abstain 5 |  |
|  | **2. International Students Campaign Constitution Amendments**  **Council Notes:**  **1**. The ISC constitution does not reflect the needs of the constituency nor provide an effective framework for a committee to function (roles and responsibilities). Having been a non-active campaign for many terms prior to MT22, it is clear it has fallen out of date and requires updating. Please note that this document was prepared prior to seeing that a 'tracked changes' version was requested and so, sadly, does not exist. Only the final, approved draft is available. However, I can walk through the changes in comparison with the original as needed  **Council Believes:**  **1.** This new constitution provides a more accurate, effective, and representative doctrine and committee make-up to achieve the goals stated and espoused by international students  **Council Resolves:**  **1.** Our new constitution, after much research and input from current committee members and discussions with constituents, be adopted for immediate implementation for the ISC.  **Proposer: Alexander Nowak, St Edmund Hall**  **Seconder: Ashley Wong, St Hilda's** | To note |
|  |  | To note |
| **M** | International Students Campaign Constitution Amendments  Votes 17  For 13  Against 0  Abstain 4  **Items for discussion**  1. Changes to the consent workshop structure  Appendix A highlights the issues that the Catz JCR had when organising and preparing ourselves for the consent workshops in fresher’s week. At the end of this report I will suggest some amendments to the consent training for Michaelmas 2023.  **Contents:**   1. Management 2. SU resources 3. Proposal for 2023   Proposed by: Awa Ndour (she/her) - Women\*’s Welfare rep of Catz JCR  2. The engagement of Student Press on discussing a publishing information at targeted individuals without consent   * When a newspaper article gets re-uploaded due to mistakes made previously, there is no acknowledgement of this matter in the article. * An issue is raised around naming people by their name rather people’s positions should be used. * There needs to be protection for students who are being quoted without their consent. * There needs to be a greater discussion around how to deal with sensitive topics being discussed in the papers.   Proposed by: Theodor Sergiou Keble College  **The chair opened the floor to questions and comments:**  What did Cherwell say on this matter?  **Sergiou:** Read out the email sent to them by the Cherwell.  **Any Other Business**  **Alicia**: Comments made by VP Women is an uncomfortable opinion for a sabbatical officer who has privilege as a white woman, especially when it's a decision of the students not just the paid representatives. so I felt like when the statement came out, it undermined the students especially women.  **Clay**: When comments are made in student council meetings, they are not personal attacks and are commenting on the student’s role.  **Michael J.**: Does the SU have a clause in place for Sabs talking to the press?  **Michael Akolade**: Not a written document, but informal agreements.  Additional comments were made to improve access and student engagement, Student Council meetings need to be made more accessible (shorter and efficient). Issues that have historically been championed by the VP Women continue to be championed and even pass next year when the role is renamed.  Some officers have a lot of power, the power to like really lead change and even though they're leading diversity campaigns, representative diverse perspectives on accountability needs to be empowered as well. So that even when VP Women role is gone, they can effectively teach.  A comment was raised over the challenge over common room election when there is a tie between several candidates and how the SU can support.  Joe: It’s very unusual that decisions are decided by the platform running the election. I will bring this up with the elections team.  **Chair declares meeting finished at 19:44 p.m.** | To note |