**Student Council 3rd Week Hilary Term 2021**

**Tuesday 2nd February 2021**

**Virtual – 5:30PM**

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| **Item** | **Agenda** | **Actions** |
|  | **Welcome and Apologies**    Wesley Ding (Chair of Council) welcomed council members to the meeting and explains how Student Council will run, and some ground rules. Wesley explained that as no amendments were submitted, voting is now open online.  Chair makes announcements about the [leaderships elections](https://www.oxfordsu.org/leadershipelection).  Candidates are now live on the websites | 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. | To receive |
| **B** | **Matters arising from the minutes**  There were no matters arising | To receive |
| **C** | **Elections in council**  Chair informs members there are no council roles to be elected this week. | 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/21ht3w/). Sabbatical Trustees supplemented their written reports with a short verbal update.  **Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments on officer reports** | To receive |
| **E** | **Reports from and questions to Class Act Campaign**  **Key highlights from Class Act Campaign:**  We are both proud that Class Act has been able to continue to run events online, as well as successfully widen the always-popular Class Act Family scheme, despite the pandemic. Last term, we were able to work with Frontline for one of our events, as well as to continue to run our ‘class discussions’, which, as always, provided fun and fruitful discussions for our members last term. We are also thrilled to have been able to welcome two new committee members elected in the by-election last term: our First Gen officer and our BME and Class Rep.  We recognise that we haven’t been able to meet as many of our termly targets as we usually would, but we would like to stress that balancing work and Class Act commitments during the pandemic has been difficult both for us and our committee members. We hope to be able to continue to strike a fair balance between our responsibilities as a committee with our own health and wellbeing. With this in mind, we will do our best to maintain the reach Class Act has this term, and use our platform to continue to have important discussions about class at Oxford.  **Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments on International Students Campaign**  There were no questions from delegates.  **Class Act Campaign** submitted a[written report](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht3w/) which can be found online | To receive |
| **F** | **Reports from and questions to PG and UG Social Sciences Graduate Report**  **Chair opens the floor for Questions and comments for the PG Rep.**  Both delegates were not present at the meeting therefore no questions for delegates.  Both PG and UG submitted a [written report](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht3w/) which can be found online. |  |
| **G** | **Items for resolution**  Wesley Ding (Chair) explained opened up the floor to members to discuss these items | To receive |
|  | **To reinstate the Women’s Campaign as an Oxford SU Campaign with no changes to the previous constitution**  **Notes:**   1. The Women’s Campaign has been an SU Campaign for several years with the following purpose: "the promotion and defence of the academic, recreational, communal, welfare and cultural interests of women or transfeminine students at the University of Oxford". 2. The Women’s Campaign was automatically wrapped up after failing to report to Student Council   **Believes:**   1. The Women’s Campaign should be reinstated and thus allowed to continue their work for the interests of promoting feminist discussion and activism at the University of Oxford.   **Resolves:**   1. To reinstate the Women’s Campaign as an Oxford SU Campaign with no changes to the previous constitution.   **Proposer:** Ellie Redpath, Magdalen College  **Seconder:** Sophie Littlewood, Magdalen College  **Opening statement from** Ellie Redpath, Magdalen College  Informs members that the campaign was wrapped up due to not reporting to council and asked members to consider getting it up and running again.  **Chair opens floor for discussion:**  There were no speeches from members  Full motion can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht3w/)  Total Votes: 58  FOR: 55  AGAINST: 0  ABSTAIN: 3  **Motion has been passed.** |  |
|  | **Clarity on Undergraduate teaching income and expenditure**   1. A 2-class fee system is currently in operation, with fees for Home students capped at £9,250 per year (set by the UK Government) and fees for non-Home (Overseas and from 21-22, EU) students uncapped and often exceeding £30,000 per year. 2. Some of the discrepancy can be explained by Government funding for Home students. These range from £0 for many subjects to £10,250 for Clinical Medicine, Dentistry, etc. (<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/784a1671-6e18-45e5-8fa8-8a676f2c9530/ofs2019_18.pdf>, Page 21). 3. There is no means-testing process for non-Home student fees. 4. There is currently no publicly published data relating to income and expenditure of undergraduate teaching at Oxford, for Home or non-Home students.   **Believes:**   1. All Undergraduates should be able to access data on where their tuition fees are spent. 2. Oxford is an institution that systematically excludes those who come from a large number of backgrounds and financial circumstances because of its high tuition fees. 3. Education at Oxford should be accessible to all those who are successful in the application process.   **Resolves:**   1. To mandate the SU President to lobby for the University to publish data on Home and non-Home undergraduate teaching income and expenditure.   **Proposer:** Vihan Jain, Worcester College  **Seconder:** Rashmi Samant, Linacre College  **Opening statement from Vihan Jain, Worcester College**  I hope members have read the motion however happy to take any questions  **Chair opens floor for discussion**  No speeches from members  Full motion can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht3w/)  Total Votes: 55  FOR: 48  AGAINST: 1  ABSTAIN: 6  **Motion has been passed.** | To receive |
|  | **Oxford SU Nominations Committee submits the following candidate for approval by Student Council as External Trustee: India Jordan (for a four-year term commencing February 2021)** Overview Oxford SU Nominations Committee submits the following candidates for approval by Student Council as External Trustee:   * India Jordan (for a four-year term commencing February 2021)   **What is the Trustee Board?**  The Trustee Board is responsible for directing Oxford SU's work in the long term. The board looks at the strategic overview, including financial and legal security.  Oxford SU is a charitable organisation and therefore, in accordance with the Charities Commission, must have a group of trustees who are legally responsible for its financial and legal health and strategic direction.  **What is an External Trustee of Oxford SU?**  An External Trustee is a Trustee that is external to Oxford SU. They bring in external expertise on a certain area which may be of use to the Charity and are recruited on this basis. For example, legal support or marketing and communications support.  **India Jordan**  India is an experienced solicitor, specialising in corporate and commercial disputes, insurance litigation and business and human rights (BHR). She regularly advises clients (including several FTSE100 companies) on legal and governance issues.  Prior to qualifying as a lawyer, India read Classics at New College, allowing her to approach the trustee role with sound knowledge of some of the unique challenges faced by Oxford SU. She has a keen interest in universities and as a student wrote a blog for a national broadsheet on higher education and issues affecting young people.  India is coming to the end of her first term as an external trustee of Oxford SU and director of Oxford Student Services Limited. In the two years since she was first elected, she has worked closely with the SU on a broad range of matters, including providing pro bono legal advice on various ad hoc issues. She played in a lead role in the 2020 Articles of Association governance review.  Nominations Committee felt that India has been an asset to the Board of Trustees bringing expertise in the field of law within her two year term and has regularly supported Oxford SU outside of the direct role of External Trustee.   **It is proposed that India is re-appointed for a four-year term.**  Amelia Holt,  Vice-President Welfare and Equal Opportunities  and Chair of Nominations Committee  January 2021  **Chair reads out the above statement and encourages members to vote on the motion**  **Election: Election of External Trustees**  Total Valid Vote: 25 Places: 1   |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Candidate** | Stage 1 | Stage 2 | Stage 2 Total | Result |  | | **[8559] Re-open Nominations (R.O.N.)** | 2 | 0 | 2 | Excluded @ Stage 1 | | | **[8560] India Jordan** | 23 | 0 | 23 | Elected @ Stage 1 | | | **Non-Transferable Differences** | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  | |  |
| **4.** | **Emergency Motion to Condemn Police Brutality in India**  **Notes:**   1. Mass protests have persisted for months in India, with large encampments of farmers in several locations outside of Delhi peacefully resisting new sweeping legislation that would radically alter the bargaining power of farmers by, for example, threatening assured prices, which protestors fear will result in exploitation by private interests. 2. Agriculture accounts for nearly 50% of India’s workforce. 3. Police brutality has become a prominent issue in India during the past 6 years, as Narendra Modi’s Bharatiya Janata party (BJP), which has close ties to the Hindu supremacist paramilitary group Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), has gone down an increasingly authoritarian path. Police have aided RSS mobs attacking students and academics critical of the BJP. In late 2019 through to early 2020, they used teargas and live rounds, shut off mobile internet service, and employed arbitrary detention to stop citizens peacefully protesting the BJP’s discriminatory legislation. They have even arrested the leftist student union president of JNU, Kanhaiya Kumar, in 2016, based on doctored videos and stood by while he was beaten in the courthouse by a group of lawyers and a BJP legislator. 4. This is part of a worrying trend of arresting left-leaning journalists, lawyers, and activists under the under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. The police crackdowns on the current farmer protests have taken an increasingly violent turn since 26 January. Tactics included descending on the camps in riot gear, cutting off water and food supplies to the camp, cutting off electricity, and aiding a mob of men who attacked one of the camps by firing tear gas at and using batons against the farmers. 5. With more than 4000 detained, hundreds injured, and dozens killed by police over the last three months, this is one of the most violent periods of unrest in recent history. At the Republic Day clashes, police detained farmers under ‘anti-terrorism’ laws, and filed reports of ‘sedition’ against journalists and opposition politicians. 6. According to the 2018 Annual Admissions Statistics Report, students from India rank fifth for successful admissions into Oxford University by country of domicile.     **Believes:**   1. The SU is a place of inclusion, which supports democracy and peace, and has a proud history of condemning police brutality, including last year’s motion condemning the police brutality used against protestors in Hong Kong. 2. Fundamental human rights, as outlined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) should be respected and protected. 3. The SU should support its students in times of adversity, especially when they are far away from home. 4. The SU should express solidarity with SU representatives across the globe.     **Resolves:**   1. To mandate SU President to publish an open letter on all of the SU’s social media platforms supporting Indian farmers’ right to protest and condemning police brutality. This should be done by the end of HT2021 and the SU President should work in collaboration with the proposer and seconder of this motion to draft the letter. 2. To monitor the situation and issue further statements should there be further state or police violence against protestors in the future.   **Proposer:** Harveen Brar, St Hilda's  **Seconder:** Vihan Jain, Worcester  **Opening statement from Harveen Brar, St Hilda's**  Asks the members to consider this motion seeing as Oxford one of the most students coming from India. Proposers is happy to take any questions from members  **Chair opens floor for discussion**  **Vedang Narain:**  Can you please clarify what exactly you'd like the student Union to say in their letter.  **Harveen Brar: Effectively we are looking for the same support** the student union, released last Michaelmas in the 1920 year, which was in response to the protests in Hong Kong and the police brutality there. I believe the specific wording of the motion is to ask that the student Union President published an open letter that supports the right to protest by the farmers and condemns police violence  **Rashmi Samant:** Supports the motion any support from members and the students union is welcome  Full motion can be found [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht3w/)  Total Votes: 54  FOR: 42  AGAINST: 4  ABSTAIN: 8  **Motion has been passed.** |  |
| **5** | **Motion: Supporting LGBTQ+ Rights and Welfare in Light of Events at Magdalen College**  **Notes:**     * + - 1. The President of Magdalen College, Dinah Rose QC, accepted a brief to represent the government of the Cayman Islands in their case opposing the legalisation of gay marriage in the territory.       2. Across the university, hurt and discomfort have been voiced by LGBTQ+ students on this matter, with statements released from organisations like ACS and the OU LGBTQ+ Society echoing this pain. Vice-Chancellor Louise Richardson noted that she understands why students and staff feel hurt by this incident.       3. The University Equality Policy: ‘seeks to ensure that no member of its community is unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partnership status pregnancy and maternity, race (including colour, nationality and ethnic or national origins), religion or belief (including lack of belief), sex, or sexual orientation (hereafter referred to as the ‘protected characteristics’).’     **Believes:**     * + - 1. Any action that furthers homophobia anywhere disadvantages and endangers LGBTQ+ people everywhere.       2. As the statement of the Oxford Afro-Caribbean Society illustrated, this feeds into existing homophobic discourse that disproportionately affects non-white members of the LGBTQ+ community, particularly those of African or Caribbean descent.       3. Many Magdalen LGBTQ+ students have been negatively affected by this incident and by Ms Rose’s subsequent handling and response to student concerns, which included blocking former Magdalen LGBTQ+ students on Twitter.       4. Ms Rose’s owes pastoral duties of care to LGBTQ+ students and should address outstanding LGBTQ+ student concerns sensitively and appropriately.       5. As an issue which has deeply impacted many LGBTQ+ students in the University, the SU should affirm support for LGBTQ+ rights.   **Resolves:**   * + - 1. To Mandate the SU President to write a statement:  1. Reaffirming the SU’s unequivocal commitment to LGBTQ+ rights and equality worldwide, including the right to marriage. 2. Urging the President of Magdalen College to commit to ensuring an LGBTQ+ inclusive and welcoming atmosphere at Magdalen College. 3. Signposting welfare support to Magdalen students and others who feel hurt as a result of the incident and subsequent discourse.   2. To mandate the VP WEO, working with the SU LGBTQ+ Campaign and Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality, to create a bank of resources providing information on the global oppression of LGBTQ+ people worldwide. These should mention the disproportionate impact global homophobia has on Queer People of Colour and contain specific resources people can donate to supporting LGBTQ+ rights in the Cayman Islands. They should then be distributed by the VP WEO to JCR & MCR Presidents and LGBTQ+ reps to share with their Common Rooms.  **Proposer:** Pierce Jones, Brasenose College  **Seconder:** Anvee Bhutani, Magdalen College  **Opening statement from Pierce Jones Brasenose College**  As I’m sure everyone is already aware, Oxford has been in the national news recently for an incident involving the President of Magdalen. The Principal was reported to be litigating on behalf of the Cayman Islands Government to repeal gay marriage. To make things crystal clear: This motion is in support of Dinah Rose. Legal principals in the UK mean that barristers must not refuse a case because they disagree with the client and most importantly, we must not associate Dinah with the views of the Cayman Islands government. This motion does not condemn Dinah Rose, nor call for her to resign or return the case. This motion is not a criticism of Dinah and we unequivocally support the Cab rank rule and its importance in the legal system.  If we support Dinah, then what is the point of this motion? Simple. Oxford has been in national headlines recently, whether fairly or not, regarding LGBTQ+ rights and many people around the world see this as evidence that Oxford is a hostile environment to LGBTQ+ people. Whilst accusing Dinah of contributing to hostility is unfair, it is still important that we, as the representative of all students in Oxford, ensure that we publicly support LGBTQ+ rights globally. As a privileged institution that has a history of supporting structural inequality and colonialism, I believe it’s important that we use this privileged to support those in the Cayman Islands, a British colony, in their struggle for the right to marriage.  I ask that the SU mobile its resources to raise awareness for those fighting around the world to end the oppression of LGBTQ+ minorities. The conversation about the Cayman Islands has encouraged a debate within LGBTQ+ circles about what we can do to support minorities in the Cayman isles and around the world. I believe that the SU could support these efforts by creating resources outlining in further detail the oppression LGBTQ+ people face globally, highlighting the disproportionate impact this has on queer people of colour. These resources should include details of organisations students can donate to to support the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights in the Cayman Islands since many students have expressed a desire to contribute financially. As a result, we ask that the VP WEO create these resources and distribute them across JCRs and MCRs to bring attention to the global oppression of LGBTQ+ people and make sure we use our privilege to help those in need.  Secondly, it is undeniable that many LGBTQ+ across the university feel hurt by the news. Even if we disagree with those who identify Dinah as the cause of this hurt, this incident has highlighted the oppression many LGBTQ+ people suffer globally, a subject of pain for many students. A small minority of students have used this incident to gaslight and attack LGBTQ+ students, and some LGBTQ+ students have been named and insulted in national press. Some LGBTQ+ students at Magdalen have expressed the exhaustion they have felt over having to defend the rights of LGBTQ+ people around the world.  Many University figures have openly acknowledged the pain this incident has caused LGBTQ+ students. Vice-Chancellor Louise Richardson has expressed sympathy with the LGBTQ+ Society and has indicated that she regrets the hurt felt by many. Similarly, the Deans of Magdalen reached out to students to extend welfare provisions and sympathise with the pain felt by many LGBTQ+ students. We ask that the SU do the same.  Finally, figures within Magdalen have already expressed a desire to regain the trust of LGBTQ+ students who are hurt and to ensure that Magdalen is a welcome and inclusive environment for all LGBTQ+ people. This is especially important for prospective applicants and offer-holders who may feel nervous about attending a College which has recently been in national headlines for LGBTQ+ rights. We ask that the SU emphasise to Magdalen College the importance of ensuring Madgalen is an inclusive and LGBTQ+ friendly environment and that they offer their support and guidance to the College for realising this aim.  To summarise, we ask the SU President to write a statement doing the three following points: a) Affirming unequivocally that the Oxford SU supports the rights of LGBTQ+ people everywhere in the world. B) Signposting welfare services to LGBTQ+ students within Magdalen and around the university who have been hurt by this incident. And C) urging the President of Magdalen College to ensure an LGBTQ+ inclusive and welcoming atmosphere at Magdalen College, and offering the guidance of the SU in this process.  Secondly, we mandate the VP WEO to create a bank of resources illuminating the oppression of LGBTQ+ people worldwide, stressing intersectionality and the disproportionate effect this has on Queer People of Colour and highlighting organisations and charities students can donate to support LGBTQ+ rights in the Cayman Islands. We ask her to consult the LGBTQ+ Campaign and the Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality when creating these resources. The VP WEO should then share these resources with JCR and MCR presidents and LGBTQ+ reps, who can then distribute within their Common Rooms.  Thanks for listening so patiently and very happy to take any questions!  **Chair opens floor for discussion**  **Alex foyler:** where the proposers aware prior to submitting the emergency motion so when they wrote it that that Dinah Rose QC is banned by BSB regulations.  **Pierce Jones:** Yes, we are. That's why we said that we completely support her in her justification for the cab rank rule  **Alex Foley:** If that’s the case, then do the proposals believe that Dinah Rose should resign as president of Magdalen college? And what specific harms do the proposers believe students have suffered as a result of **t**his case?  **Pierce Jones:** I have said in the speech that I don't think she should resign. I'm not an LGBTQ+ student at Magdalen however they have expressed how exhausted they feel by the whole process and how some students at a minority of people to be sure how to use this as an opportunity to invalidate concerns they have about LGBT rights, or even use it to attack LGBTQ+ students. I'm not going to name any specific incidents or any specific students because I don't think that's fair to the people. Some people have been named in the national press and haven't really been offered any support. Basically we're seeking to ask the Students’ Union to provide resources and support these students in their hurt  **Alex Foley:** Thank you for this and I appreciate that, but are those harms a result of the case itself or the mistake of fact? Or how it was initially reported by the student activists?  **Pierce Jones:** I think they're not a result of Dinah Rose at all. I think their a result of just the fact that the case has been like you say, used in so many different arguments and misconstrued by lots of people for different purposes, and the fact that this incident has provoked a whole discussion within student communities which has brought the oppression of LGBTQ + people across the world through the forefront of the conversations we're having at the moment. Which, as I'm sure you can imagine, it's quite emotionally distressing for a lot of people.  **Alex Foley:** I just want to ask. So in the notes the Council notes section, the University of Quality Policy is mentioned. Do you believe that Miss Rose has violated the University of Quality Policy?  **Pierce Jones:** No, we just ask that she makes sure that Magdalen in the future does everything it can to obey this policy, but I don't believe she's violated.  **Alex Foley:** If all of these things are true, then why are no mention of them made in the motion? I'm referring to your comments about Miss Rose specifically that you support her.  **Pierce Jones:**  This motion isn't about Miss Rose . This Motion is about LGBTQ + rights worldwide. OK, thank you.  **Caleb Van Ryneveld:** Given that the person who has just proposed this motion has said this isn't about Miss Rose, but is more generally about LGBTQ + rights worldwide, I would like to check with the chair as to whether it is in fact appropriate for it to be proposed as an emergency motion. Given the criteria for emergency motion, is it must pertain to events that have only arisen since the deadline for submitting motions. If this is in fact a general motion about LGBTQ + rights worldwide. I can't help but feel it doesn't meet that criteria.  **Chair’s response:** Based on the tests of emotion, I do believe that it has substantially arisen after the deadline since it concerns.  **Edward: This was a** point that was brought up on our committee group chat by our LGBTQ + Rep. We would just want to make sure that this statement with the mandate to the SU president just to make sure that this is focusing on the material risk to people in the Cayman Islands making sure that it's supporting them and that it's not just and its not just essentially people in Oxford appropriating this issue from what is a very present issue for people in the Cayman Islands and needs to be addressed.  **Pierce Jones:**  Yeah, that would be exactly what I have in mind too. I agree that the people in the Cayman Islands who we believe are suffering at the moment under oppression of their right to marriage, being possibly taken away. They deserve the support of Oxford students and that they should be definitely a focus in this. Which is why we've also asked that we emphasize resources and charities for organizations in that campaign.  **Alex Foley:** I just have to say I really don't understand the point of this motion, I guess anymore. I had certain conception of it coming in. But now I feel like after questions, the intent is quite confused, so I don't know if this is a motion in support of people in the Cayman Islands and it's really not about Miss Rose, which I think undercuts its necessity to be an emergency motion. And then the specific harms that were identified against students. Seem to be as a result of other student actions misrepresenting the case of Miss Roses involvement, so I'm very confused by it and I feel like as it's currently worded, there would be no choice for the press at large, but to extrapolate from it that it's somehow feeding into this narrative around Miss Rose that is vilifying her for things that are well out of her control. So if this motion was brought back. Explicitly supporting Miss Rose and the students who might be affected by the case in the Cayman Islands, I might reconsider it, but in its current format I'm just very confused what the goal is. I'm very confused why the proposals don't think it would feed into this narrative that's being created quite wrongly against Miss Rose. And I'm just very confused by the motion in general. I think there are misleading sentiments presented within the motion. And I just don't think there's any proof that the hurt is currently being experienced by students isn't a result of the manufactured outrage that has been whipped up by other student activists who have misrepresented her involvement.  Motion was withdrawn by proposer.   Click [here](https://www.oxfordsu.org/representation/student-council/21ht3w/) for full withdrawn motion | To receive |
| **I** | **Any Other Business**  **Chair opens the floor for AOB to members**  **Wesley Ding (Chair):** | To note |
|  | **Chair declares meeting finished at 19:30** | To note |