



**Policy Book 2021/2022**

## **Policy Renewals**

### **Condemning Harassment-Discrimination (Policy Renewal)**

**(3<sup>rd</sup> week TT21)**

#### **Council Notes:**

1. The policy “Condemning Harassment-Discrimination” will lapse at the end of Trinity Term 2021 unless it is renewed.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To renew the Oxford SU Policy titled “Condemning Harassment-Discrimination” without amendment. The text of the Policy reads:
  - a. “Oxford SU condemns discrimination and/or harassment, on the basis of class and/or any of the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010. Oxford SU also condemns discrimination and/or harassment on the basis of protections not included in The Equality Act 2010: paternity or non-binary parenting, gender expression, sexualities other than hetero/homo/bi-sexuality, wealth, income or class.”

### **Air Pollution (Policy Renewal)**

**(3<sup>rd</sup> week TT21)**

#### **Council Notes:**

1. The policy “Air Pollution” will lapse at the end of Trinity Term 2021 unless it is renewed.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. This policy is crucial to a healthy and safe environment.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To renew the Oxford SU Policy titled “Air Pollution” without amendment. The text of the Policy reads:

- a. “Oxford SU will seek, monitor and (where reasonable) support any initiatives aiming to lower air pollution levels locally and more widely.”

**Proposer:** Michael Woods, Brasenose College

**Seconder:** Edward Peckston, Brasenose College

**The Chair explains that policies are SU motions that are passed and last 3 academic years after the year in which they were first passed. They need to be renewed every 3 years.**

**The Chair states that the Proposer and Seconder have sought to renew three policies today and asks them to give a general overview, rather than speaking on each individually.**

**Michael:** After reading these, I felt that it was a no-brainer considering they had been renewed number of times. I am open to modifications of the language to make them more suitable, but otherwise I think they should be renewed as they serve a basic environmental need.

### **Ethical Code of Practice for Oxford SU’s Commercial Activities (Policy Renewal)**

**(3<sup>rd</sup> week TT21)**

**Council Notes:**

1. The policy “Ethical Code of Practice for Oxford SU’s Commercial Activities” will lapse at the end of Trinity Term 2021 unless it is renewed.

**Council Believes:**

1. That Oxford SU should have an Ethical Code of Practice for their dealings with external organisations for commercial purposes.

2. That Oxford SU should take all practically possible steps to ensure the organisations they engage with for commercial purposes are committed to minimising their negative impact on the environment and the communities they operate in.

3. That Oxford SU should give preference to organisations that take an active stance on minimising their negative impact on the environment and the communities they operate in.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To renew the Oxford SU Policy titled “Ethical Code of Practice for Oxford SU’s Commercial Activities” without amendment. The text of the Policy reads:

**Student Council Believes:**

1. That Oxford SU should have an Ethical Code of Practice for their dealings with external organisations for commercial purposes.

2. That Oxford SU should take all practically possible steps to ensure the organisations they engage with for commercial purposes are committed to minimising their negative impact on the environment and the communities they operate in.

3. That Oxford SU should give preference to organisations that take an active stance on minimising their negative impact on the environment and the communities they operate in.

**Ethical Code of Practice for Oxford SU’s Commercial Activities**

1. Advertising Space

a. OSSL/Oxford SU will not sell advertising space to companies or organizations that have been proven to take away the rights of the individual, or to

manufacturers of torture equipment or other equipment that is used in the violation of human rights.

b. OSSL/Oxford SU will not sell advertising space to businesses that derive more than 10% of their profits from the manufacture, sale, licensed production, or brokerage of armaments

c. OSSL/Oxford SU will preference businesses that take a pro-active stance on the environmental impact of their own activities

## 2. Investments

a. In the event that Oxford SU/OSSL needs to invest money, Oxford SU/OSSL will take into account Oxford SU Council policy applying to University investments, and, when appropriate, consult with Oxford SU campaigns.

## 3. Miscellaneous Decisions

a. On occasion, OSSL/Oxford SU will make decisions with regard to specific companies involving ethical issues not explicitly included in this ethical policy.

These decisions should be taken with the involvement of the relevant member(s) of the Sab team, and OSSL/Oxford SU staff input.

### **Cycling (Policy Renewal) (5<sup>th</sup> Week TT21)**

#### **Council Notes:**

1. The policy "Cycling" will lapse at the end of Trinity Term 2021 unless it is renewed.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. This policy is crucial.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To renew the Oxford SU Policy titled “Cycling” without amendment. The text of the Policy reads:

### **Cycling**

Oxford SU resolves to mandate the Vice President (Charities & Communities), or another named sabbatical officer, to regularly correspond with the cycling advocacy group Cyclox and support them in any campaign where student involvement may be useful for improving cycle safety.

### **Vegetarian Default at Oxford SU Events (Policy Renewal)**

**(5<sup>th</sup> Week TT21)**

#### **Council Notes:**

1. The policy “Vegetarian Default at Oxford SU Events” will lapse at the end of Trinity Term 2021 unless it is renewed.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. This policy is crucial.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To renew the Oxford SU Policy titled “Vegetarian Default at Oxford SU Events” without amendment. The text of the Policy reads:

**Proposer:** Michael Woods, Brasenose College

**Seconder:** Edward Peckston, Brasenose College

### **Vegetarian Default at Oxford SU Events (Policy Renewal)**

#### **Vegetarian Default at Oxford SU Events**

Where Oxford SU provides food, it will be vegetarian by default (having meat or fish will be considered a dietary requirement).

## **Reproductive Justice Policy (Policy Renewal)**

### **Trigger warning: abortions**

**(5<sup>th</sup> Week TT21)**

#### **Council Notes:**

1. The policy “Reproductive Justice Policy” will lapse at the end of Trinity Term 2021 unless it is renewed.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. This policy is crucial.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To renew the Oxford SU Policy titled “Reproductive Justice Policy” without amendment. The text of the Policy reads:

#### **Reproductive Justice Policy**

Oxford SU is an organisation dedicated to representing the interests of Oxford students. Oxford SU believes that as such, Oxford SU as an organisation should affirm the rights of all students to choose what happens in their lives and what happens with their bodies, including the choice of whether or not to continue with a pregnancy, and should campaign accordingly.

#### **Oxford SU Believes:**

1. That abortion can be a difficult moral choice, and we should trust students to make it for themselves.
2. That Oxford SU can and should do more to support both students who choose to have children during their time at Oxford, and students who arrive in Oxford as parents.
3. That Oxford SU should, through their Student Advice service, continue to make available impartial and non-directional welfare support to those students who are pregnant and in need of advice.

#### **Oxford SU Resolves:**

1. To lobby for before a legal requirement that abortion providers verify that no patient is being coerced into an abortion.
2. To oppose imposition of any criminal penalties on a person that has an abortion.
3. To support the right of all pregnant people to choose, and to campaign in support of this right being legally established.
4. To oppose measures to make it more difficult for students to choose either to terminate a pregnancy or to carry it to term and to work to ensure that no additional restrictions are imposed at any level so that Oxford students have a real choice.
5. To campaign to extend students' right of practical access to an abortion, and to extend their rights of choice over their own pregnancies.
6. To campaign for the University and the colleges to provide greater support for students who choose to carry their pregnancy through to term.
7. To work with other groups campaigning for the above objectives.
8. To reaffirm the importance of the VP (Women) and VP (Graduates) in representing and supporting student parents, in order to further the provision for student parents by Oxford SU and the University.
9. To clearly affirm our support for a non-directive, impartial and supportive Student Advice, as laid down in the Oxford SU Bye-Laws.

### **Accessibility policy (Policy Renewal)**

**(5<sup>th</sup> Week TT21)**

#### **Council Notes:**

1. The policy "Accessibility Policy" will lapse at the end of Trinity Term 2021 unless it is renewed.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. This policy is crucial.



### **Council Resolves:**

1. To renew the Oxford SU Policy titled "Accessibility Policy" without amendment. The text of the Policy reads:

### **Accessibility Policy**

1. All Oxford SU events should consider trigger warnings, content notes, and pronouns to be regular practice, including those held by permanent/issue campaigns, and for it to be regular practice to specify one's pronouns when one speaks at an event.
  - a. For clarity, trigger warnings and content notes are information on the upcoming content of an event, a talk, a paper, a Council motion, or any other Oxford SU contribution, which serve to allow students to avoid or to be aware of topics that may cause distress.
  - b. Pronoun circles are an aspect of the beginning of any meeting or event in which people will be referencing what other people have said, where each person states the name and the third-person pronoun (he, she, they, etc.).
2. Oxford SU should endeavour to limit the use of jargon and acronyms, and to explain these, when necessary.
3. Those who are organising Oxford SU events should consider the timings of other Oxford SU campaign meetings / events when scheduling, to ensure students are able to access as many events as they'd like to attend.
4. Oxford SU should be as accessible as possible:
  - a. Student Council should always be held in a venue with step-free access 18 and should accommodate as far as possible any accessibility requests made by students who wish to attend.
  - b. All events hosted by Oxford SU should list relevant accessibility requirements (e.g. step-free access is available to the room) and details for a named contact (who can handle accessibility requirements discreetly) in the event description

i.Examples of accessibility requirements include:

1. Step-free access
2. Gender-neutral, accessible bathrooms
3. Baby-changing facilities
4. Places available to sit
5. Quiet areas

5. Oxford SU should endeavour where possible to hold Student Council at a postgraduate College at least one in every five times and at an absolute minimum, once in an academic year (assuming that these Colleges are willing to provide and that they have accessible venues).

6. Oxford SU should be promoting accessibility online as well, including:

- a. Providing captions and an easily accessible text transcript for any Oxford SU-related video they help create
- b. Providing image descriptions and alternative text descriptions, where needed
- c. Providing black-and-white, readable versions of documents, where needed

7. Oxford SU branding should take account of concerns that may arise, and ensure that it remains as accessible as possible (e.g. preference for light background dark text)

8. Oxford SU should endeavour where possible to follow the following Family Friendly

Checklist:

- a. The venue is child-friendly (e.g. not around sharp corners or precious furniture) and there are baby-changing facilities nearby.
- b. The event includes at least one activity that might interest children
- c. If the event includes food, there is food suitable for children (i.e. not spicy or too messy; finger foods are great)
- d. The event doesn't take place late at night or during work hours (you're looking at 5-7pm on weekdays and 9-7pm on weekends)

- e. Any children need to be supervised (likely by their parents/guardians), and this should be reminded.
- f. The event does not involve people exclusively getting drunk, and may not involve alcohol at all (with the exception of summer activities)
- g. If an event does not allow for children, relevant information on access to childcare provision is provided and supported, where necessary.

### **The National Health Services Policy Renewal (7<sup>th</sup> week TT21)**

### **he National Health Service (Policy Renewal)**

#### **Council Notes:**

1. This policy will expire unless renewed.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. This policy is crucial.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To renew the policy without amendment:

#### **The National Health Service**

##### Oxford SU Believes:

1. The NHS is a vital public service that the government should continue to ensure remains free at the point of use for all citizens and never introduces charges.
2. That Oxford SU should oppose the privatization of NHS services and the open marketing of front-line service ends, and oppose any moves to an insurance-based system of healthcare provision.
3. Oxford SU should work with local and national campaigns to oppose NHS charges that arise for international students.
4. Oxford SU should work with local and national campaigns to stand against and oppose cuts to the NHS.

5. That there should be prompt access to adequately funded and culturally competent mental health provisions, on campus and in the NHS.

### **Bin the Blood Ban (Policy Renewal) (7<sup>th</sup> week TT21)**

#### **Council Notes:**

1. This policy will expire unless renewed.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. This policy is crucial.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To renew the policy without amendment:

### **Bin the Blood Ban**

That the blood ban on the groups (such as LGBTQ+ men and those who sleep with them) unfairly excludes them from donating; the government should continue with research, to repeal this ban in its entirety.

### **Free Education (Policy Renewal) 7<sup>th</sup> week TT21**

#### **Council Notes:**

1. This policy will expire unless renewed.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. This policy is crucial.

#### **Council Resolves:**

1. To renew the policy without amendment:

### **Free Education**

Oxford SU resolves to support free education as a policy and work with the NUS and its campaigns to further this agenda on a national level. This includes providing, where reasonably practical, logistical support to student campaigners who wish to attend rallies and national demonstrations, led and/or supported by groups such as NUS.

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## **Motions passed since:**

### **Motion on Continuation Fee –**

**(7<sup>th</sup> week TT20)**

#### **Council Notes:**

1. We recognise that this is a time of significant financial uncertainty for the university and that its leadership are reluctant to increase institutional costs at a time of crisis.
2. However, the university should also note that its students are suffering as a result of the situation we now find ourselves in.
3. Many have lost jobs or demonstrating payments, are faced with bills for returning home once asked to leave collegiate accommodation, or are otherwise suffering financial hardship as a direct result of the coronavirus situation.

#### **Council believes**

1. In light of this, it is completely inappropriate for the University to demand payment of continuation fees from Postgraduate Research students at this time.
2. We call on the university's leadership to 1) defer all payment of continuation fees until the university reopens, 2) publicise a clearer appeals process for those who feel that they are not sufficiently covered by the current exemptions for coronavirus and 3) state in all communications to students what hardship funds will be made available to those who are unable to pay fees now or in the future

#### **Council Resolves**

1. To mandate VP Graduates, VP Access and Academic Affairs, and the President to lobby for the resolutions in "Believes 2"
2. To mandate Sabbatical officers to share link and publicly support the petition on this topic to both staff and students

## **Motion on Follow up on the Graduate Application Fee Issue –**

**(1<sup>st</sup> week TT20)**

### **Council Notes:**

1. That in Week 3 HT Council resolved by an overwhelming majority to mandate the VP (Graduates) to speak at Congregation on March 10 in favour of abolishing the graduate application fee
2. On March 3 (after the deadline for motions to Week 7 council) a message was received from the personal Facebook account of the VP graduates stating that he would not be attending Congregation on March 10, as it was an industrial action day and this was prohibited by 'the Council mandate from week 5 MT19, TT2017, and internal SU policy'.
3. Despite it being entirely unclear whether such policy actually prevented the enacting of the above resolution, to clarify the situation an emergency motion was brought to Council in Week 7 re-affirming the mandate for the President to speak at Congregation. Council voted for this, again overwhelmingly.
4. During this motion the VP stated that he would not follow obey this mandate: "There is a 0% chance that we will be speaking at Congregation"
5. The President was emailed during Week 7 to ask her to pass on her plans for a speech to be given to the Congregation Secretariat. No reply was received.
6. Approximately 31 minutes before the deadline for submission of speaker names, another message was received from the personal Facebook account of the VP Graduates stating that "we have collectively taken the decision to continue to adhere to the picket line. Nonetheless, we will be submitting a statement to Congregation in support of the motion". No such statement appeared or was mentioned in the Congregation debate

### **Council Believes:**

1. That under normal circumstances, the deliberate and repeated failure of a sabbatical officer to fulfil their mandate on the grounds of personal objection would be cause for a motion of censure, or indeed no confidence.
2. That under the current circumstances, such a motion may not be inappropriate as it would distract from supporting students through the coronavirus pandemic, and would make the student body appear disunited.
3. That nonetheless the Student Council must make clear that such failures cannot be tolerated; and a motion of dissent is one way to do this.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To note its dissent with the actions of the President and VP (Graduates), on the grounds of failure to communicate in an appropriate manner and failure to fulfil their mandates
2. To require the President and VP (Graduates) to refamiliarise themselves with SU Policy on mandates and communications.

**Motion on Access and Tuition Fee –**

**(7<sup>th</sup> Week TT20)**

**Council Notes:**

1. As stated in the motion on continuation fees passed in 5th Week Council TT20, “We recognise that this is a time of significant financial uncertainty for the university and that its leadership are reluctant to increase institutional costs at a time of crisis. However, the university should also note that its students are suffering as a result of the situation we now find ourselves in.”
2. A large part of this academic year's teaching was disrupted due to strikes over pensions, pay, and working conditions. Classes are now held online due to the pandemic, and this may continue in the future. Throughout the year, the University has charged full fees.

3. The University charges £9,250 for Home/EU students, the highest permissible rate under the Higher Education and Research Act 2017, and a much higher amount for overseas students.

4. During the strikes, the University, after consulting with Oxford SU, allotted money collected during the days of industrial action and allocated them to support students through hardship funds, internship support, and welfare and disability provision.

5. In the debate on fee refunds in 3rd Week Council TT20, Council members raised the issue of students getting reduced contact hours during remote teaching, as well as reduced access to library collections and laboratories.

### **Council Believes**

1. It is not reasonable for the University to insist upon full payment of tuition fees despite reduced learning resources.

2. The University's leadership should

1. Investigate the access issue of asking students of lower income backgrounds to pay full tuition fees for a reduced amount and standard of tuition at a time where many students and their families face financial uncertainty.

2. Use funds conserved due to lapses in tuition to expand hardship funds.



### **Council Resolves**

1. To mandate VP Access and Academic Affairs and the President to lobby the University in relation to Believes 2 and report in 1st Week Council MT20 on their progress

### **Motion on Fee Increases – form submitted on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Week MT20**

### **Council notes**

1. The Oxford SU Policy on Fee Increases titled "Higher Education Bill (MT16)" is out of date and lapsing this year.

2. Oxford SU Policy supporting free education is still active.

### **Council Believes**

1. We should oppose fee increases in addition to our policy of supporting free tuition fees
2. We should ensure that our new policy keeps the spirit of our lapsing policy which opposed the linking of fee increases to the assessment of Teaching Quality, and the introduction of differentiated fees across the Higher Education sector.

### **Council Resolves**

1. Oxford SU resolves to oppose any fee increases for our students, including those linked to the National Student Survey, and any future introduction of differentiated fees across the Higher Education sector.

**Motion on Reducing greenhouse emissions by the cessation of beef and lamb consumption at university outlets and catering services (as opposed to college Food & Beverage establishments)**

**(5<sup>th</sup> Week MT2020)**

**Council Notes:**

1. Food-related Greenhouse Gas emissions account for 26% of all global greenhouse emissions. 58% of that originates from animal products and 50% of all animal product emissions come from beef and lamb. In total, 7.5% of global greenhouse emissions come from beef and lamb. Both also disproportionately strain water and land resources.<sup>3</sup>
2. The consequences of anthropogenic climate change disproportionately impact Black and Brown peoples in the Global South,<sup>4</sup> people with disabilities,<sup>5</sup> and women.<sup>6</sup> It also exacerbates social inequality.<sup>7</sup>
3. The University of Oxford (“Oxford”) admitted that they have missed their 2021 carbon emissions goal.<sup>8</sup>
4. In recent years, the London School of Economics,<sup>9</sup> the University of Cambridge, and Goldsmiths, University of London<sup>10</sup> have banned the sale of beef and/or lamb in campus food outlets.
5. The University of Cambridge has banned beef and lamb and reported a 33% reduction in carbon emissions per kilogram of food purchased, and a 28% reduction in land use per kilogram of food purchased.<sup>11</sup>

**Council Believes:**

1. Climate change is serious. Beef and lamb contribute significantly to climate change. Changes in the way we live are essential to protect our planet and its people.
2. Oxford has a moral duty to do better on climate change. Oxford SU has a moral duty to push the university forward on this issue. The university has a commitment to anti-racism, and this

requires urgent action to minimise greenhouse emissions. Despite its disproportionate impacts, Oxford is failing to adequately address climate change.

3. As the UK's premier university, the nation looks to Oxford for leadership, but Oxford has shown a lack of leadership in addressing climate change.

4. The banning of beef and lamb at university-catered events and outlets is a feasible and effective strategy to help the university meet its revised 2030 goal. A change at the university level will open the gates for similar change at the college level.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To mandate the VP Charities and Communities to campaign for the removal of beef and lamb products at the university level by the end of Hilary Term 2021. The scope of this motion includes university-operated catering outlets and university-organised events, but not colleges.

The VP Charities and Communities shall campaign by:

a. Requesting regular meetings with the university authorities to advocate for:

i. The adoption of a university policy surrounding meat reduction and removal, especially in respect of beef and lamb, reviewed annually,

ii. The university to issue advice to faculties, departments, and colleges on how they may follow suit in removing beef and lamb.

b. Informing staff and students within the University as to Oxford SU's support for the removal of beef and lamb and the purposes and reasoning behind the policy and raising awareness of the benefits of removing beef and lamb.

Proposer: Daniel Grimmer, Pembroke College

Seconder: Vihan Jain, Worcester College

**Motion Wave The Residency Requirements (7<sup>th</sup> Week MT20)**

**Notes:**

1. The University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Martin Williams, made a statement on 17 November on the extension of residency requirement to Hilary Term in 2021.\*

**Believes:**

1. The residency requirement must be waived for all students from Hillary term onward.
2. Students should be able to choose what is best for them and their families.
3. The university should follow the lead of other universities in developing the formulation for online labs where possible.

**Resolves:**

1. To mandate the Oxford SU President to:
  - a. Sign the forthcoming petition drafted by the proposers of this motion and promote the petition to students.
  - b. Lobby the university to waive the residency requirement for all students from Hilary term 2021 until the end of the pandemic.

Proposer: Rashmi Samant, Linacre College

Seconder: Benjamin Fernando, Teddy Hall

**Motion to sign Disarm Oxford and Oxford University Amnesty International's letter to the VC. (7<sup>th</sup>**

**Week MT20)**

**Notes:**

1. Departments of the University frequently accept funding from arms companies in exchange for research into weapons development. Oxford is responsible for the continued evolution and manufacture of arms, working for example on nuclear warhead technology\* and on technology which contributes to lethal autonomous weapons\*\* (the focus of the global 'Campaign to Stop Killer Robots', in which Oxford University Amnesty International participates).

2. The Careers Service frequently advertises arms companies at their Fairs and in their promotional material. This term, Careers Fairs have hosted DSTL, Frazer-Nash, GMV, and Leonardo, among other arms companies. The Careers Service has an official policy\*\*\* banning any advertising on behalf of tobacco companies because of their harmful impact. Earlier this term, large numbers of students wrote to the Careers Service to highlight the inconsistency of this policy, as arms companies have numerous deleterious impacts but their presence is not curtailed.\*\*\*\*
3. A new student campaign has been set up this term called Disarm Oxford, which aims to cut ties between the University and the arms industry.
4. Multiple college Junior Common Rooms including Balliol, Jesus, LMH, Somerville, and Mansfield have passed motions endorsing the aims of Disarm Oxford and Oxford University Amnesty International, with further motions expected to be debated and passed in Merton and St John's MCRs.

**Believes:**

1. Based on its own internal policy regarding funding, the University of Oxford should refuse funding originating from unethical activity.
2. The Careers Service ban on unethical industries should not be limited to tobacco, and should include arms companies.
3. As a centre for academic excellence, the University has a duty to remain independent of the arms trade, which actively seeks to influence its research initiatives.
4. Arms research is unethical and drives conflicts; arms companies fuel humanitarian catastrophes, such as the ongoing crisis in Yemen.
5. In signing a letter to the Vice-Chancellor on this topic, and encouraging involvement in Disarm Oxford and Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, the SU would demonstrate its commitment to human rights, condemn Oxford's role in perpetuating war crimes and humanitarian crises, and promote academic freedom.

## Resolves:

- Mandate the VP Charities and Communities to sign the open letter ([Appendix A](#)) by Disarm Oxford and Oxford University Amnesty International Society to the Vice-Chancellor, which calls for a severance of relations between the University and the arms trade and a policy stating that the University will not contribute to the development or production of lethal autonomous weapons systems.
- Make the following SU Policy with the title 'Disarm Oxford University and cut ties with the arms industry': 'Oxford SU believes that the University, and its constituent colleges, departments, and other institutions should cut all links with the arms industry, which drives conflict and humanitarian crises. In particular, cutting links should include full divestment from arms company investments, a ban on accepting any direct funding from arms companies or carrying out any research on behalf of an arms company, and a blanket ban on arms companies being hosted at careers events, similar to existing sanctions on tobacco companies.'

\* <https://cherwell.org/2020/11/13/oxford-universitys-ties-to-nuclear-weapons-industry-revealed/>

\*\* <https://isismagazine.org.uk/2019/11/funding-under-fire/>

\*\*\* <https://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/advertise-your-vacancies/#collapse1561856>

\*\*\*\* <https://www.oxfordstudent.com/2020/10/24/careers-fair-criticised-by-disarm-oxford-campaign/>

**Motion to reinstate the Women's Campaign as an Oxford SU Campaign with no changes to the previous constitution (3<sup>rd</sup> Week HT21)**

## 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.

**Motion to 'Create a Trans Rep Position for the SU Women's Campaign' (1<sup>st</sup> week TT21)**

**Title:** Create a Trans Rep Position for the SU Women's Campaign

**Council Notes:**

1. There is currently not a Trans Rep position on the SU Women's Campaign.

**Council Believes:**

1. It is essential that as part of its activist work, WomCam should fight transphobia and transmisogyny, and so a position dedicated to representing the voices of trans women/misogyny-affected trans people would be an incredibly important addition to WomCam.

**Council Resolves:**

To amend the WomCam constitution in order to add the following:

10.12 The Trans Rep is responsible for representing the views of Trans Full Members to the Campaign and other bodies. and thus create a Trans Rep position for WomCam.

**Proposer:** Ellie Redpath, Magdalen College

**Seconded:** Isabel Creed, St. Edmund Hall

**Statement from Eleanor Redpath:**

Eleanor is present and explains the importance of a Trans rep in light of significant transphobia and trans issues in feminist and wider spaces across the university.

**Motion to remove the Sackler name from the Bodleian Libraries building (3<sup>rd</sup> week TT2021)**

**Trigger warning: Drugs, Epstein**

**Council Notes:**

1. Donations are an essential part of the financing of non-for-profit institutions, especially among higher education institutions. The University of Oxford is not the exception, and this current situation reflects that some of its buildings have the name of its most crucial donors since its foundation. One specific case is the Sackler trust donations, a fund created by the Sackler family, an important benefactor of Oxford



University, with an estimated amount of money donated, since 1991, around £11 million (Cherry, 2018).

2. The Sackler's name is not only on a library building but their contributions are being used by the University for other purposes, including research. However, this family is currently under investigation due to their involvement with the opioid crisis in the United States. They are the owner of Purdue Pharma, the company that produces Oxycontin, a potent synthetic morphine pill (Marks, 2020), which has been identified as one of the main culprits of this crisis. Multiple institutions are now rejecting their donations, returning funds already given, declaring no intention to receive any future ones and even removing their name from buildings named after them (Hopkins, 2019). Numerous authors (Carson, 2020, Ciulla, 2020, Dunn, 2010, May 2020, Saunders, 2012, Taylor, 2020) have raised the problem of not-for-profit institutions, like Universities, that receive funds from sources that may not be legal or ethical.

3. As the Sackler family's legal and ethical consequences and their role in the opioid crisis are unfolded, another case may come to mind: Jeffrey Epstein. Epstein's donations to MIT and Harvard provoked a public relations scandal when made public. The convicted sex offender was a regular donor to these prestigious universities. Due to the lax process and even worse controls, MIT still maintained financial ties even after Epstein was convicted in 2008 (Chaffin, 2019). These mistakes result from inadequate policies and rules that prioritize money collection over University's values or principles.

4. Thus the question we should ask: are the funds donated by the Sackler family ethically acceptable? The answer given by several institutions is negative: for example, Tufts University is not only returning their donation but even removing their name from a building (Markowitz, 2019), and it triggered an internal audit to verify how donations are accepted (Tufts, 2019). This audit was led by former U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts Donald K. Stern, who found an urgent need of "developing a more stringent conflict of interest policies, strengthen compliance practices and leadership, and creating and publicizing guiding principles for gift acceptance" (Tufts, 2019, p.1). This reaction is similar to other higher education institutions and non-for-profits organizations like museums: the Mets (Hopkins, 2019) and the U.K. National Gallery (Badshah and Walters, 2019) are both returning or refusing future Sackler's donations, vis a vis the multiple lawsuits they are facing and investigations of their role in the opioid epidemic in the United States.

5. The Sackler family is now under U.S. state and federal investigation (Dwyer, 2019, Keefe, 2017, Ryan et al., 2016), with one U.S. congressman (Walters, 2020). stating that "I'm not sure I know of any family in America that is more evil than yours" (Walters, 2020, p.2)

6. Oxford has previously refused donation; an example is Oxford's swift and extremely fast rejection of Huawei's gifts (BBC, 2019) in January 2019. This cancellation was five months earlier than the President's Trump ban on American businesses with the Chinese telecom giant, issued in May 2019 (Mengting and Lee, 2019) and the full official U.K. sanctions were put in place in July 2020 (Liu, 2020). In this case, Oxford's decision was

probably the result of the British government's pressure, a stakeholder with enough leverage to accelerate the judgment.

7. Oxford Student Union has been the only stakeholder that has publicly expressed some concerns on the ethical grounds of building and donations under the Sackler's name. In a statement in 2018, it read the "S.U. believes that the university should not accept money from sources that the student body disapproves of" (Cherry, 2018, p.2). They have formally rejected Sackler's donations, and it has insisted on more transparency on the way funding is accepted (Krasteva, 2020).

**Council Believes:**

1. When a university names some of its buildings after a wealthy donor, based solely on the donation's size, it may communicate the wrong priorities or values to its students (Fliss et al., 2020).

2. When individuals see the Sackler Library in Oxford, they implicitly receive the message that wealth is the University's priority.

3. In the case of the Epstein donations, the warning is the evident risk of waiting too long to denounce a donor when his crime has already gained general public scorn.

4. The Sackler family has purchased social status over decades through their donations but, despite their considerable efforts to conceal their involvement in the opioid crisis, their time to the limelight has come. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to dissociate their funding with all the pain and sorrow the abuse of Oxycontin has brought to

American society.

5. The worst fall out from all this ethical problem may be on the final message Oxford University is communicating to their students, implying that the end justifies the means.

6. Ultimately, branding a building by accepting contributions from some "tainted" sources, "money from the Sacklers should be understood as blood money" (Associated Press, 2019, p. 2), may be prejudicial to the University, no matter the size of the donation. Following that logic, Oxford may well receive gifts from Pablo Escobar or Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman (at least until they were found guilty by a jury).

7. From a long-term perspective, we should ask the Oxford community who dismissed the origin of Sackler's funding, how many students would be attracted to attend the "Hitler and Stalin School of Medicine" (Sanky and Appel, 2020). Even if that School is at Oxford University, we are guessing not many.

8. It is time for Oxford to follow the example from other institutions and drop the Sackler name from the library building.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To mandate the SU President and Vice-President Charities and Community to lobby the Oxford University to drop the Sackler name from the building due to their involvement in the opioid epidemics in the U.S.

2. To mandate SU President and Vice-President Charities and Community to invite author Patrick Radden Keefe to present to the Oxford Student Union his book "Empire of Pain," in which he describes how the Sackler family has intentionally profited from the opioid epidemic.

### **Motion to Support across the Common Rooms for the Oxbridge Student Action for COVID Relief in**

#### **India (3<sup>rd</sup> week TT21)**

**Trigger warning: Covid deaths in India**

#### **Council notes:**

1. That India is being ravaged by a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a devastating impact on Indian civilian life and healthcare systems in dense cities and rural areas alike, principally due to the shortage of oxygen supplies it has engendered.
2. Every day last week, India posted a new world record for cases, with almost 400,000 cases and over 3,000 deaths reported between 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April.
3. The severity of this wave is such that the welfare of all Indian students at the University of Oxford is being directly impacted. It is impossible to concentrate on exams or assignment submissions when almost every Indian student is aware of a relative or a friend suffering severely from coronavirus. This is in addition to the bombardment from global media reporting patients dying in hospital for lack of oxygen, people dying in queues on the streets waiting to be treated, and the bereaved having to fight to cremate loved ones.

4. Indian students, as well as staff, comprise one of the biggest ethnic minorities in the University of Oxford's population. This means that virtually no student at the University is more than two degrees of separation from a relative or friend whose life is currently at risk. Student welfare has already been and will severely be affected by this.
5. The Oxford India Society (OIS), Oxford Hindu Society (HumSoc), and Oxford South Asian Society (OxSAS) are fundraising ([Oxbridge Student Action for COVID Relief in India](#)), with the aim of raising £50,000, contributing to efforts to address the crisis and offering students a valuable outlet via which worry and fear can be channelled into direct action, directly addressing student welfare.
6. Some Common Rooms have already made contributions to the fundraiser set up by the OIS, HumSoc, and OxSAS.

**Council believes:**

1. Oxford SU, as well as undergraduate and graduate common rooms, have a duty of care towards the welfare of their students, which is currently being severely impacted.
2. Oxford SU should support the activities of Oxford University student societies.

**Council resolves:**

1. To mandate the President and VP Charities and Communities to promote the OIS, HumSoc and OxSAS's fundraising efforts on all of its channels of communication.
2. To mandate the President and VP Charities and Communities to forward to all Junior and Middle Common Room Presidents and Secretaries a template motion that resolves to transfer a flexible amount of funding to the OIS, HumSoc and OxSAS's fundraising

efforts (provided this is permissible under the Common Rooms' constitutions) so this student action can be continued.

3. To mandate the President and VP Charities and Communities to commence lobbying for Colleges to transfer a flexible amount of funding towards the OIS, HumSoc and OxSAS's fundraising efforts so this student action can be continued, and where possible to match the amounts passed on by their Common Rooms.

4. To mandate the President and VP Charities and Communities to report on the progress of these above three mandates at Council meetings for the rest of term.

#### **Motion to Create a Welfare Officer Position for the Oxford SU Women's Campaign (7<sup>th</sup> week**

**TT2021)**

#### **Council Notes:**

1. Women and non-binary students face specific challenges, and WomCam committee members may need support when working on projects of a sensitive nature or which may deal with triggering material.

2. Class Act has a Welfare Officer role.

#### **Council Believes:**

1. It would be beneficial for there to be a Welfare Officer on the Women's Campaign in order to help women and non-binary students and committee members with welfare issues and generally promote the welfare of committee.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To amend the Oxford SU Women's Campaign constitution to create a Welfare Officer post, as per Appendix B.

**Oxford SU Policy on Student Mental Health (7<sup>th</sup> Week TT21)**

**Council Notes:**

1. We are in the midst of a student mental health crisis:
  - a. A [NUS study](#) found 50% of students say their mental health is worse than before the pandemic. 29% of these students have sought support.
  - b. Since March 2020, Oxford University's counselling service has experienced an average of 15% increased demand on 2019 levels. Demand for the University counselling service increased by 100% on 2019 levels during July and August 2020.
  - c. According to Oxford SU's Wellbeing Consultation in June 2020, there has been a 29% increase in students struggling with "isolation/loneliness", and a 23% increase in students concerned about the future.



2. The sabbatical officers this year have been working with the university on numerous wellbeing initiatives and committees, including the Mental Health Task Force. Throughout this work they have also consulted with student leaders, such as JCR/MCR Presidents and Welfare Reps, and student campaigns, such as the [Oxford SU Disabilities Campaign](#) and [End the Eating Disorder Crisis Now](#) who have been doing great work relevant to the area of student mental health.

3. This context has informed the principles outlined below.

**Council Believes:**

1. Every student studying at Oxford deserves to thrive.
2. Whilst we recognize that the University is not a healthcare provider, they still have a responsibility to their students to ensure that they are able to complete their academic work to the best of their ability. Doing all that they can to promote student wellbeing is a part of this.
3. The structure of an Oxford degree is intense, challenging, and often times stressful. Such a working environment can, at times, lead to the exacerbation of mental health difficulties, or contribute to a lack of mental wellbeing. The university should provide students, with the tools and services to deal with such an environment.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To insert the below as Oxford SU Policy for the next 3 years, supplementary to the [Welfare Vision \(TT16; Updated and Renewed TT19\)](#).

## **Student Mental Health Policy**

To mandate the sabbatical officers to lobby the collegiate university to:

1. Become compliant and sign up to the [University Mental Health Charter](#) as soon as possible.
2. Create a Common Framework for Mental Health that is adopted across colleges.
3. Continue the expanded funding for the Counselling Service and plan for sustaining funding over the next 3-5 years.
4. Set up a new joint University and College committee on Student Mental health and Wellbeing.
5. Establish the role of PVC for Student Experience and Wellbeing.
6. Complete and publish a review of student wellbeing, and consider the fundamental changes that could be made to the Oxford student experience to promote good mental health and wellbeing, for example examining academic workload and term lengths, considering the addition of reading weeks, and investigating the diversification of teaching and assessment.

## **Update the WomCam constitution to promote intersectionality and inclusivity (7<sup>th</sup> week TT21)**

### **Council Notes:**

1. The Women's Campaign has only recently been restarted, and thus it is important to ensure that the previous constitution from years ago is updated to reflect the campaign's current values.

### **Council Believes:**

1. It is crucial that first and foremost WomCam be an intersectional feminist campaign, and also use language which both ensures that the campaign tackles misogyny in all its forms and includes all students at Oxford who are women or identify in any way with the term 'woman'.
2. All updates were made in consultation with the Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality and the LGBTQ Campaign.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To make the changes to the WomCam constitution in accordance with Appendix B.

**Motion to adopt A better definition of transphobia (7<sup>th</sup> week TT21)**

**Council Notes:**

1. The definition of transphobia found in Appendix A will, in this motion, be referred to as "the proposed definition of transphobia".
2. In this motion, the word 'trans' is inclusive of any and all non-cisgender identities.
3. According to the 2018 Trans Report written by the Oxford SU LGBTQ+ Campaign,
  - a. 98% of trans students at Oxford report mental health issues
  - b. A further 65% report that the University has had a negative impact on their mental health.

- c. 63% of trans students have experienced discrimination from the University, with 97% of this being reported as transphobic discrimination.
  - d. 35% of respondents reported this transphobic discrimination as coming from staff and administrators of the University.
4. Anecdotally, the prevalence and severity of transphobia at the university has not improved, and has perhaps even worsened, since the Trans Report.
  5. Claims of transphobia are frequently not reported or pursued, and are frequently written off when they are reported as simply being accidents or misinterpretations.
  6. The proposed definition of transphobia was written by trans students in conjunction with LGBTQ+ Campaign, based on the Trans Actual and Lib Dem definitions of transphobia.
  7. The proposed definition of transphobia has been endorsed by LGBTQ+ Campaign and WomCam [an email containing the proposed definition has been sent to the SU President's email].

**Council Believes:**

1. It is important to have a specific, detailed definition of transphobia to be able to effectively combat it.

2. For a definition of transphobia to accurately represent the interests of trans people, it is important that it be written and/or approved by trans people.
  
3. Adopting a definition of transphobia written by and for trans students will show that the student body as a whole cares about trans students' welfare.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To adopt the proposed definition in Appendix C as Oxford SU Policy.
  
2. To adopt the following as Oxford SU Policy:
  1. To mandate the VP Women and VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities to lobby the university to formally adopt the proposed definition of transphobia for the duration of the policy.

**Fossil Free Careers Motion (5<sup>th</sup> week HT 2022)**

**Opening statement from Jack, Climate Justice Campaign**

**Council notes:**

1. That the operations of the oil, gas and mining industries cause immense environmental harm, by accelerating the climate and ecological crisis (2), polluting the water (3) and permanently destroying landscapes. (4)

2. That these extractive operations also cause direct social harm, by displacing people from their homes and lands,(5) destroying livelihoods, (6) demolishing sacred indigenous sites, (7) and leaving workers and communities with severe health problems. (8)

3. That graduates are increasingly turning away from the oil and gas sector. A 2017 study showed the number of graduates taking jobs in the industry had dropped by 60% in four years. (9)

4. That young people see oil and gas as the most unappealing sector to work in. (10) They associate it with responsibility for the climate crisis, and believe there is no future for jobs in the industry. (11)

5. The University Careers Service does not have a publicly accessible policy that excludes the promotion of careers in the oil, gas and mining industry through its website, careers fairs, emails to the student body and other recruitment events.

6. 20% of university Career Departments already restrict one or more of the tobacco industry, adult/sex industry, or gambling industry from accessing their services (12). Oxford University already prevents tobacco companies from advertising careers to students due to the 'great harm to public health' that it has caused, though pollution from burning fossil fuels causes at least as many deaths each year as tobacco smoke. (13)

7. The university has made a public ethical and sustainability commitment. This includes a commitment to 'divest its endowment formally from the fossil fuel industry' in April 2020

(14). Oxford University also claim to 'have set the target of reducing our carbon emissions by fifty per cent by 2030'. (15)

8. Oxford students have consistently protested careers events that promote fossil fuel and mining companies such as Glencore, Equinor and BP. Geography students have also criticised their department's advertisement of a position at Shell. (1) For a precise definition of the companies we refer to when we say 'oil, gas, and mining companies' see the Fossil Free Careers Targets page - (<https://peopleandplanet.org/fossil-free-careers/targets>) (2) (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/oct/09/revealed-20-firms-third-carbon-emissions>) (3) (<https://old.danwatch.dk/undersogelseskapitel/impacts-of-copper-mining-on-people-and-nature/>) (4) (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/nov/24/trump-mining-arizona-holy-land-oak-flat-tribes#>) (5) (<https://paxforpeace.nl/media/download/pax-dark-side-of-coal-final-version-web.pdf>) (6) (<https://londonminingnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/EMBARGOED-Cut-and-run.-How-Britains-top-two-mining-companies-have-wrecked-ecosystems.pdf>) (7) (<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/may/26/rio-tinto-blasts-46000-year-old-aboriginal-site-to-expand-iron-ore-mine>) (8) (<https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2018/04/10/cerro-de-pasco-mine-peru-lead-arsenic-pollution-glencore/>) (9) (<https://www.worldoil.com/news/2019/8/2/oil-industry-has-a-millennial-problem-as-talent-pipeline-trickles>) (10) (<https://www.pwc.com/co/es/publicaciones/assets/millennials-at-work.pdf>) (11) ([https://assets.ey.com/content/dam/ey-sites/ey-com/en\\_us/topics/oil-and-gas/ey-how-do-we-regenerate-this-generations-view-of-oil-and-gas.pdf](https://assets.ey.com/content/dam/ey-sites/ey-com/en_us/topics/oil-and-gas/ey-how-do-we-regenerate-this-generations-view-of-oil-and-gas.pdf)) (12) (<https://peopleandplanet.org/fossil-free-careers>) (13)

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/03/air-pollution-killing-more-people-than-smoking-say-scientists>) (14) (<https://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/advertise-your-vacancies#collapse1561856>) (15) (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events/fossil-fuel-divestment>)

***Council Believes:***

1. Inviting oil, gas, and mining companies to advertise with the careers service adds legitimacy to the idea that these companies are an acceptable part of our society and our future.
2. Oxford's Careers Service should ensure that its recruitment activities and events are in line with the university's publicly stated ethical principles of sustainability.
3. Oxford's Careers Service has a responsibility to its students to promote jobs with a future.
4. Ending this university's complicity in career pipelines into the oil, gas, and mining industry is an effective method of showing solidarity with communities affected by these companies' operations.

***Council Resolves:***

1. To make 'To publicly support the Fossil Free Careers campaign and demands that our university Careers Service:

Refuses all new relationships with oil, gas or mining companies.

Declines to renew any current relationships with oil, gas or mining companies after the contractually obligated period ends.

Adopts a publicly available Ethical Careers Policy that explicitly excludes oil, gas and mining companies from recruitment opportunities' Policy.



2. To mandate the relevant full-time and part-time officer(s) to actively work with the Fossil Free Careers campaign group and People & Planet to ensure that Union work is linked up with grassroots campaigners.
3. To mandate the relevant full-time and part-time officer(s) to help set up meetings relating to the Fossil Free Careers campaign with relevant university staff, and include student campaigners where relevant.
4. To use relevant SU social media channels to amplify petitions, statements and other calls to action from the Fossil Free Careers campaign.
5. To send out a press release and website statement announcing the passing of this motion and the support of the union for this campaign.
6. To never allow oil, gas, or mining companies access to SU-organised events, or to lend the SU name, logo or endorsement to events which include these companies.
7. To refuse the presence of oil, gas and mining companies in any SU-controlled physical or digital space. <https://peopleandplanet.org/fossil-free-careers>

#### **Motion on policy on college inequalities (5<sup>th</sup> week TT2022)**

Riley Sanborn noted that the motion commits the SU to communicating to the Council Colleges its support for \_\_\_ inclusion in the college contribution scheme. It also calls upon heads of common rooms to advocate to your heads of house, to support and to vote in favor of PPH inclusion in the scheme.

#### **Motion to Re-establish the SU Campaign for Suspended Students (7<sup>th</sup> week TT22)**

##### **Council Notes:**

A suspension of studies, formerly known as rustication, 'stops the clock' for all elements of the degree, including residency requirements, fees and the number of terms for which a particular status may be held. Suspension of studies can occur for a variety of reasons, from

health to academic reasons. Although historically, rustication was a punishment used to condemn particular behavior, recent figures provided by the Oxford Blue reveal that suspensions predominantly occur for medical reasons. There are some standard aspects of suspension including retained access to: Online resources (E.G. SSO) University Libraries Counseling Services Careers Advice Although suspended students typically do not have access to formal teaching, the University acknowledges that “some departments or faculties may offer ad-hoc advice on substantive academic matters at their own discretion.” This discrepancy between each college’s approach to the treatment of suspended students can be observed in the following quotes are sourced from Mansfield College’s and Brasenose College’s Student Handbook Mansfield College - “Students on suspension do not have access to college facilities, and they may not come into College or attend any College events, including social and sporting events, unless given permission on each occasion by the Senior Tutor” Brasenose College - “The College also recognises that in some cases reasonable adjustments are required to enable a student to continue on course, or return to study following a period of intermission. The College endeavors to deal with such matters sensitively and non-judgmentally and in a spirit of collaboration with students. Early intervention and active collaboration with all parties are promoted by the College” Despite colleges noting that suspending one’s studies is “not a decision to be taken lightly”, suspension rates are increasing, as indicated by research conducted by the Oxford Blue: In the academic year 2008/9 - the total suspension rate\* amounted to 298 In the academic year 2020/21 - the total suspension rate\* reached 575 \*This figure includes voluntary, imposed and ‘unspecified’ suspensions of studies

**Council Believes:**

The logistical process of suspending one's studies is straightforward; it is clearly laid out on the University website. However, the means of requesting a suspension of studies and navigating the secondary-effects of suspension (E.G. on student finance, accommodation) feels arduous and unclear. Hannah Capstick, a suspended music student at University College, notes that she: "Struggled to find information online on SF [Student Finance], accommodation, work, and how to manage my degree, etc. in the next year. I very much felt alone. I felt as though there were official rules and unofficial rules, and staff were following the unofficial while pretending to uphold the official." Moreover, being a suspended student is an isolating experience. Besides a relationship with a welfare contact that exists at some colleges, little is done to support the suspended student's connection with their college support network, the demands of their degree and broader college life. Combined with the general "social ban" instituted at certain colleges, a suspension of studies does not simply feel like 'stopping the clock' but rather like erasing the person's identity as a student at the University of Oxford. Connie Hammond, a currently suspended PPE student at Mansfield College, commented that: "As an estranged student, being exiled from the college community was incredibly difficult - the college was my home year-round and I feel uncomfortable with the idea of living on site again now being afraid to visit." Crucially, the isolating experience of being a suspended student makes the transition into full-time studies more formidable. Although some students may choose to prolong their suspension (with permission) or withdraw from the university completely, most suspended students intend on returning to their studies in the following academic year. The treatment of suspended students seemingly suggests that there is an expectation that individuals will seamlessly ease back into demanding full-time education, flourishing on only limited academic support. In response to this, Zahra Lahrie, a currently suspended student reading law at Brasenose

College comments that: “Law is a really hard degree, and I felt the demands of my degree acutely even while having the academic support of tutors and structured learning within term time. Having been away from Oxford for nearly a year and being in charge of my own learning, I am worried about my academic attainment; especially knowing i’ll be sitting exams on content I learnt three years ago, unlike most students” Lastly, the discrepancies in each college’s treatment of suspended students are concerning. On one hand, students may feel that their college makes efforts to feel included within college life. Zahra makes the following comment: “I feel like my college really values me as a member of the student community, despite being a suspended student. Although there are moments of isolation, my college has tried to counter this. During the vacation period, I was able to spend time in college accomodation for free. Most recently, I attended the BNC sports day; an experience that affirmed that I belong within the college community” On the other hand, some suspended students have been entirely disallowed from coming onto college grounds, receiving treatment that seems reminiscent of the punitive past of rustication. Connie states that: “My college justified this social ban by saying that suspended students are ‘distracting’ and discourage other students from doing work, which is judgemental and cruel and in many cases ableist due to the high number of students who end up rusticating for health reasons.” Ultimately, it appears that one’s experience with suspension is dramatically defined by one’s college. Minor variations in each college’s conduct is to be expected, but not to the extent that can be currently witnessed.

**Council Resolves:**

Re-establish the SU Campaign for Suspended Students in order to: Support Suspended Students - this could, but is not limited to providing: Advice on matters such as student finance, managing mental health, keeping up with one’s degree, etc. Opportunities/events

for suspended students to reconnect/maintain their connection with the University. A safe space to speak about suspending one's studies, without taboo. Advocate on behalf of suspended students, particularly on the following two issues: Achieving greater university-standardization on the broader process relating to a suspension of studies. Allowing suspended students access to college facilities during their suspension.