

1st Week Trinity Term 2019 Student Council

TIME: 17:30

DATE: Wednesday 1st May

LOCATION: Nash Room, Worcester College

If you have any questions about Student Council, please feel free to contact:

Chair of Council: chair@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

Student Engagement Coordinators: studentengagement@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

Project Bid Pot: £1204.84 remaining

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting
- b. Matters arising from the minutes
- c. Elections in council
- d. Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees
- e. Reports from and questions to Campaigns
- f. Reports from and questions to Divisional Representatives
- g. Reports from and questions to NUS Delegates
- h. Items for resolution
 - 1. Review and Renew the Diversity and Equality Conference Project
 - 2. Review and Renew the Graduate Access Survey Project
 - 3. Help Green Trashing Campaign get up and running
 - 4. Establish The Survivors Anthology Project
 - 5. Europe Day flag

Below the line

- 6. Establish Oxford SU Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality
 - 7. Establish Oxford SU Suspended Students Campaign
- i. Items for discussion
 - 1. Slates in Oxford SU Annual Elections
 - 2. Proposals for use of the Language Centre Library
 - j. Any other business

a. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting on Wednesday 27th February were considered.
Passed with no opposition.

b. Matters arising from the minutes

No amendments were noted.
Passed with no opposition.

c. Elections in Council

The Steering Committee (x2) is responsible for making sure the business of Student Council is legal and appropriate. They look over the motions submitted by Students, steering them for consultation if needed, and compiling the agenda.
No nominations were received and therefore elections were postponed.

d. Reports from and questions to Sabbatical Trustees

Rosanna Greenwood, VP Charities and Community reported that 1. Organising multiple events including Springtide 2. Organising charity awards 3. What's Your Blood Type Event with the NHS 4. Cycle Safety Event but will have another council before this occurs so can give more information then.

Katt Walton, VP Women reported that 1. Looking at ethics approval for surveys on student welfare 2. Organising workshop for staff, Junior Deans, and hopefully other students on FGM prevention 3. Collaborations with Ellie Macdonald and Campaigns sorting out '101s' together to create intersectionality awareness training for colleges

Ellie Macdonald, VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities reported that, 1. Writing accessibility guide to be used by everybody in collaboration with DisCam 2. Working with Welfare services to organise student mental health consultations 3. Work on ??? But this has been held up ethics process

Joe Inwood, President reported that, 1. Working with colleges and JCR Presidents on their rent negotiations 2. Pushing voter registrations for European Elections on 23rd May, launched Pledge to Redge campaign 3. Working with Lucas on the Universities 'access initiatives' planned for launch later in the term.

Alison D'ambrosia, VP Graduates reported that, 1. Working with Ellie and Joe on mental health campaigning 2. Working on Parks College – making some significant progress 3. Working on student parent policy particularly on the working environment 4. Working on some pre-arrival initiatives for Graduate students and International students

Lucas Bertholi-Saad, VP Access and Academic Affairs reported that, 1. Working on E-Exams which is exams being on computers that is probably 2-3 years away from being implemented 2. Subject Access Requests – will come back to 3rd week council 3. Graduate Access – will bring to 3rd week council 4. UNIQ + scheme launched by

the University designed to encourage students to go into graduate study 5. Analysing results of some of OSU surveys namely around reading weeks and access 6. Looking at Access & Participation plan – news to emerge in mid-May from the University

No questions for the sabbatical officers.

e. Reports from and questions to Campaigns

No-one present from LGBT campaign and so no report was given. Please refer to the SU website to see written report.

Report from DisCam given.
Rahul Bajaj presented the report.
No questions were received.

f. Reports from and questions to Divisional Representatives

Representatives from Medical Sciences

Alex Grossau-Rowe, Undergraduate reported that he had been attending all internal meetings. At last Undergraduate forum there were discussions over what to take to the Division. Working with Oliver Handsworth on welfare for Undergrads but has been caught up in ethics approval and hopefully it will be out soon. Been working a lot with the libraries, met with the relevant librarian and consolidated the reading lists. Met with Head of Medical Sciences Division on all levels and discussed with what will be happening with the RSL – around workspaces and books. Been working with Oxford online reading lists and hoping for minimal disruption. Doing a lot with Parks College – sit on the Building Group and focus group and progress seems to be being made. Will know more following the next meeting of Congregation.

No-one present from Graduate

g. Reports from and questions to NUS Delegates

Joe Inwood (SU) written report is online where you can see the voting record. Conference was in Glasgow.

Olivia (Wadham) echoed Joe's statement

Nikita Ma (Trinity) echoed Joe's statement

Question

Joe (SU) added that whilst the NUS has been going through some financial difficulties recently it remains important that Oxford SU is still a member of the organisation and help fix it on the inside.

Chair asked whether there was anything of importance to which Joe replied that people should just go to his report.

h. Items for resolution

1. Review and Renew the Diversity and Equality Conference Project

Report online for review

Project leader: Liyang Han, Mansfield College

Liyang Han & Marianna Lovato presented.

Successfully organised the conference in Hilary Term and the focus was one accessibility at Oxford throughout the admissions process. Longer version of the report available will be published in the near future. 3 points were: 1. like to continue the conference on an annual basis and asked for those interested in hosting to please get in touch 2. Working groups are to be created out of the round tables (disabilities, disparity between colleges, and access in admissions) still in progress. Recognised that some campaigns were working on similar things and contact will be made with regard to collaboration 3. list of recommendations from this report that will be taken to the conference of colleges. Were contacted with regard to presenting at the colleges Equality and Diversity Conference.

£500 was asked for at the previous council and £450 was spent with £50 being returned to the Student Council pot.

No questions were asked, and the project was approved to be renewed.

2. Review and Renew the Graduate Access Survey Project

Report online for review

Project Leader: Louis Morris, Pembroke College

Presented by Louis Morris

Event is still a work in process. Commissioned, legally, someone to conduct the analysis of the survey from Nuffield. Taken a little longer than expected but for good reason as interest from staff and fellows who heard that this was happening and wanted to get involved and give their own feedback. Looking to launch on Wednesday 8th May and each college will receive materials to publish the survey and incentives will be added too. Week 9 of Trinity is the end for the report to be published.

No questions were asked, and the project was approved to be renewed.

3. Help Green Trashing Campaign get up and running

Seren Irwin presented the motion

Council notes:

1. Trashing in its current form is damaging to the environment, due to the high levels of plastic used. Plastic is non-biodegradable and is harmful to wildlife, particularly with the microplastics from products such as glitter and confetti escaping in to our rivers when students jump in to them or have a shower, thus removing them in to the water network. Plastics can also carry harmful toxins.
2. Last year the Green Trashing Campaign (GTC) was launched and a guide was produced notifying students on how to go about trashing in a more eco-friendly way. There were also two selling events of biodegradable products which were very successful, with £280 donated to charity.
3. This year GTC is back and wants to increase its student engagement even further, particularly as there are again high levels of interest in the campaign. A key initiative to increase student engagement is to host even more selling events, where students can find accessing biodegradable trashing products easily accessible.
4. A social media poll was conducted which indicated that students would like profits from the project to be donated to Plastic Oceans UK, facilitating the UK's transition to a healthier environment without plastic.
5. A project proposal has been submitted to Oxford SU (Appendix A).

Council Believes:

1. The outcome of the project will produce a large positive impact for the health of our local and wider environment, with less plastic pollution being left on our land and in our rivers due to trashing. This will reduce the hazards faced by wildlife from human plastic pollution.
2. Following the project there will be greater student awareness of the damaging effects of plastic pollution and they will seek to use more environmentally friendly products in their trashing, which will be facilitated by GTC's selling events in the future.

Council Resolves:

1. To establish the Green Trashing Campaign as an SU Project
2. To allocate £201.32 from the Student Council Project Bid Pot, to enable GTC to purchase biodegradable products to sell to students for green trashing. The profits will go to Plastic Oceans UK.

Proposer: Seren Irwin, Jesus College

Seconded: Daphne Rutnam, Hertford College

[Questions](#)

Jure Aleksejev Beside these replacements has there been a campaign to have exams and exam results announce in a more broken-down fashion in order to stop lots of trashing happening at the same time?

Seren Irwin GTC are not suggesting a change to this. They are not looking to stop trashing they are just looking to limit its environmental damage.

Joe Edwards Do you think its possible to do even more sales as it seems like the demand for this is quite high?

Seren Irwin Yes, it is scalable as they have a large support network and they can put on more events but would need more money from the project bid fund which would need further approval from council. One option is to keep some of the purchasing money to buy more products, with profits still going to charity. The potential to work with the Common Rooms to order in whole stock would be the long-term goal.

Gokul Parameswaran (Keble) When would the JCR be able to order?

Seren Irwin: This is still in the early process of planning. Main proposal is to have sales events that any student can attend in order to make it more accessible. 4 events across Trinity is the primary aim with an aim of holding more in the future.

Gokul: discussed this in a JCR meeting and President said last year it sold out really quickly and were discussing whether they should buy it independently Is there somewhere else they can buy it outside of the campaign?

Seren: She knows where to get them from but encouraging JCRs to go through the campaign.

Unknown: If JCR's buy independently then they don't have to sell with a profit margin in mind.

Marianna Lovato (Mansfield): How do we place orders?

Seren Irwin: The idea of ordering is very recent and is in its early stages of planning. This is not where the money would go. It would go to a sales event that is open to all students to go along to. Perhaps the ordering is something that would be discussed at a later stage, but they are interested in delivering this system going forward.

Rhiannon Ogden-Jones (Corpus): Would it not be a better idea to communicate where JCR/MCR can buy them themselves in order to avoid running out of stock?

Seren Irwin: Same answer as before

Louis Morris (Pembroke): How many peoples worth of stuff does it equate to?

Seren Irwin: £200 is for 4 sales events. At each event planning to sell 24 of each product. If first event sales out very quickly then the idea of reinvesting profits will be explored.

No opposition to this motion was raised and the motion passes.

4. Establish The Survivors Anthology as an SU Project

Council notes:

1. There are many survivors (and allies) at Oxford and yet there is no lasting platform for them to share their presence and their stories with each other and with the university community at large.
2. A project proposal has been submitted to Oxford SU (Appendix B).

Council Believes:

1. There needs to be more awareness of sexual assault and related interpersonal violence in the university community.
2. There is a need for a central platform at Oxford where survivors and allies in the university community can compile and share their voices. This central platform should provide opportunities for healing through creative expression, solidarity building, and promote awareness.

Council Resolves:

1. To establish The Survivors Anthology Project as an SU Project.

Proposer: Sonia Ghura, Pembroke College

Seconded: Katt Walton, Oxford SU

[Questions](#)

[Katt Walton \(SU\)](#) How will you ensure that there is no risks posed to those who submit their stories?

[Sonia Ghura](#): Everything is anonymous and collected anonymously. People who receive the submissions will be the only ones who see. Guidelines will also be created to ensure that no names are shared.

[Joksie \(Linacre\)](#) How would this work with faces being in it?

[Sonia Ghura](#): Survivors Anthology exists in other Universities across the world and they have pre-existing guidelines. If photography of people was submitted, then it would be reviewed and if faces were in it then it would be unlikely to be accepted.

[Fenelle Gross \(University\)](#): Would this require any resources?

[Sonia Ghura](#): Yes. The ask is underneath the two hundred pounds. The ask for the SU is to host the anthology in perpetuity so that it can be continued by those who join next year.

No opposition was raised, and the motion was passed.

5. Europe Day flag motion

Motion proposed by [Andreas Haensele](#), Lincoln College

Council Notes:

1. In 1st week MT18, Council voted to amend Oxford SU's European Union policy, (page 12 of the Policy Book), to read: 'The University benefits enormously from the easy presence of students from other member states of the European Union at Oxford'.
2. Europe Day is celebrated on 5th May to commemorate the founding of the Council of Europe, and is a celebration of peace, prosperity, human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Europe after the devastation brought by two World Wars.
3. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Council of Europe on 5th May 1949 in London.

Council Believes:

1. European students and staff in Oxford deserve our support and solidarity in uncertain times.
2. Flying the European flag on Europe Day, 5th May, will demonstrate solidarity with European students and staff.
3. Oxford is a European institution and will always remain one.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the President to write to heads of departments and faculties, encouraging them to fly the European Flag on 5th May 2019.
2. To encourage JCR and MCR Presidents to request that their colleges fly the European Flag on 5th May.

Proposer: Andreas Haensele, Lincoln College

Seconded: Emma Bluemke, New College

No questions were asked.

No opposition was raised and the motion passes.

Below the Line

6. Establish Oxford SU Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality

Council Notes:

1. In 7th Week Michaelmas Term 2018 Student Council amended the Bye-Laws and changed how Campaigns work.

Council Believes:

1. Oxford SU should have a Campaign for students of Arab, Asian, African or Caribbean descent, people of colour, black, or ethnic minority students at the University of Oxford.

Council Resolves:

1. To establish the Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality as an Oxford SU Campaign and Appendix C as its Constitution.

Proposer: Cherelle Malongo, Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality
Seconded: Ellie MacDonald, Oxford SU

Passed with no opposition.

7. Establish Oxford SU Suspended Students' Campaign

Council Notes:

1. In 7th Week Michaelmas Term 2018 Student Council amended the Bye-Laws and changed how Campaigns work.

Council Believes:

1. Oxford SU should have a Campaign for students who suspend their studies at the University of Oxford.

Council Resolves:

1. To establish the Suspended Students' Campaign as an Oxford SU Campaign and Appendix D as its Constitution.

Proposer: Tanya Blagoderova, Suspended Students Campaign
Seconded: Ellie MacDonald, Oxford SU

Passed with no opposition.

i. Items for Discussion

1. Slates in Oxford SU Annual Elections (Appendix E)

Discussion on the following:

- Is Council satisfied with current governance around slates in Annual Elections for Sabbatical Trustees, Student Trustees and NUS Delegates?
- Does Council believe slates benefit our Annual Elections?

Proposer: Joe Inwood, Oxford SU

[Oliver Besley \(Jesus\)](#) Slates do help as they massively aid publicity. He felt he was constantly informed about them.

[Olivia Railton \(Wadham\)](#) Slates were really fantastic. As they bring people together and encourage more open campaigning.

[Katt Walton \(VP Women\)](#) Massively against slates. It means that people who have more friends get to form a slate. If you're not in the right circles, then it can

massively disadvantage you. It can cause friendship issues too as well as creating a divide in the sabbatical team.

Josie (Linacre): Agree with Katt. Getting rid of slates doesn't entirely get rid of the friendship angle.

Matthew Judson (LMH): When student trustees are elected on the same slate as sabbatical officers it raises issues around accountability and bias. Not completely against slates but they need careful thought.

Ellie Macdonald (VP Welfare): Agree with Katt. Over time at Oxford have seen tensions between slates and within slates themselves. Encourages aggression between candidates and a hostile attitude. Not having slates attracts a wider range of candidates. Slates shouldn't be a barrier that stops people from running.

Lucas Bertholi-Saad (VP Acc Aff): Not sure how relevant slates are. They do need to be discussed especially around the issue of campaign finance. Non-sabbatical officers on slates add to the slates total spend and it usually doesn't go to the non-sabbaticals and goes to the sabbatical election instead.

2. Proposals for use of the Language Centre Library (Appendix F)

The University is planning to close the Language Centre Library, abolish the post of language centre librarian, and repurpose the space for tutor desks and teaching space. Some of the collections, including magazines and textbooks, would remain on site and other items would be distributed to the Bodleian. This plan is currently open to consultation, has been condemned by Oxford UCU and covered by the Cherwell. There will be an Open Forum on the 7th May held by the University. How should Oxford SU respond to the consultation?

Proposer: Lucas Bertholdi-Saad, Oxford SU

Alison D'ambrosia: Collection will remain as it is but it will be spread to different libraries

Marianna Lovato: Have used the libraries and some classes have been in tiny rooms so understand the need to redistribute space. It did have really good resources however. Spreading the collection across libraries is not great.

Lucas (VP AccAf): Magazines will remain on site.

Unknown: The way the staff have been treated is an important issue as we look should ensure that they are not just 'shunted off'.

j. Any other business