

University of Oxford Students' Union
Minutes of Council
1st Week 1 HT19

	Item	Actions
a.	<p>Notices to council</p> <p>Chair welcomed people to the first meeting of Council and introduced himself.</p>	
b.	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November were considered.</p> <p>Matters arising from the mins No amendments were noted.</p>	<p>Resolved to accept with no objections.</p>
c.	<p>Elections in council</p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee (X1) A nomination was received from Syed Shoib Hasan Rizvi. A hearst was requested. He gave a short speech on his experiences, improvement in the future. He explained his NGO in Pakistan experiences – providing resources to support women to start new business.</p>	<p>Resolved to elect Syed Shoib Hasan Rizvi with 100% vote for.</p>
d.	<p>Reports from and questions to the Sabbatical Trustees Allison D’ambrosia, VP Graduates presented that 1. We housed 10 people for vacant rooms project which is good considering only 17 people were eligible for the programme 2. Looking at an overhaul the Graduate admission system; 3. Sabbatical officers are trying to build consulting system with undergraduate colleges.</p> <p>Ellie Macdonald, VP Welfare & Equal Opportunity presented that 1. She is working on ‘mind your head’ project, an old Oxford SU campaign, for mental health awareness week; 2. Working with Katt, VP Women, on lobbying Pubs and clubs, and Night club venues on picking up ask Angela; 3. Encourage students to apply for their position</p>	

	<p>Lucas Bertholdi-Saad, VP Access and Academic Affairs presented that 1. Encourage students to apply his position; 2. This term he will be focusing on university's new access and participation plan, which sets out university's plans for access for the next five years. He asks students to fill in consultation sent out. 3. He is also organising Oxford SU Access Conference on next Tuesday 6:00pm</p> <p>Katt Walton, VP Women presented that 1.This term she is organising events for international women's day on 2nd March. She will invite some interesting speakers to give speeches as well as organise a club night for women and gender non-conforming people;2. She is doing a survey on student sex workers and trying to find out how the University can effectively support them.; 3. She is reviewing trans policy with the E&D Unit, and looking at overhauling the system for reporting sexual violence within the University.</p> <p>Rosanna Greenwood, VP Charites & Community presented that 1. She has submitted a response to the city plan.; 2. Working with students to plan Climate Action Week which is taking place in 4th Week Hilary Term; 3. In 6th week for international Students Volunteering week, they will be hosting the charity awards on 22nd February, aimed at acknowledging the amazing work that students do in fundraising.</p> <p>Joe Inwood, President presented that 1. He is working with JCR presidents on rent negotiation; 2. He has been university of Cambridge and he is also working with Cambridge SU. Cambridge and Oxford are sharing experiences and learning from each other; 3. He highlighted that SU has been redecorated and he encourages students to use it.; 4. He is also working with Ellie on 'mind your head' project.</p> <p>Questions: Marianna Lovato (Mansfield college) asked about details of changing graduate admission.</p> <p>Allison D'ambrosia clarified that there is the focus project funded by universities and they are focusing on the improvement of university procedure. One of which emphasises on graduate access. Others also include funding, scholarship, IT and different aspects. Allison D'ambrosia sits on these projects and starts with student number claiming and gradually moves on to other stages, such as student enrolment. Allison D'ambrosia also mentioned that the team will firstly put specific info online for applicants and also do some consulting work with graduate students.</p>	
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	<p>Joe Inwood said that the university funds IT work, tries to expand graduate numbers, helps to update resources, and smooths the process.</p> <p>Ellie Macdonald said that there is a shortage of supplying dental dam.</p> <p>Neil Misra (Oriental college) asked about new postgraduate college.</p> <p>Allison D’ambrosia said that she had three meetings with Bodleian librarians, who are involving in the work. These librarians are working on not displacing staff members and thousands of books. But she doesn’t know much about next steps.</p>	
e.	<p>Report from Disabilities Campaign</p> <p>Ebie Edwards Cole and Sophie Thomes presented their report and in addition highlighted their concerns about the British Sign Language (BSL) lessons in Oxford, trying to fit the service time into term time and to meet the high demands.</p> <p>Questions: Marianna Lovato (Mansfield college) asked how the disability campaign work with Department in terms of helping students with disability.</p> <p>Ebie Edwards Cole said that they were very aware of the problem and she agreed with the issue - a lack of effective responses and supports from departments, highlighted that they worked on educational supports last term and they suggested a top-down approach to solve the problem.</p> <p>Report from LGBTQ+ Campaign</p> <p>Henna Khanom presented their report.</p> <p>No questions were received</p>	<p>Resolved to accept with no objections.</p> <p>Resolved to accept with no objections.</p>
f.	<p>Items for resolution (Motions)</p> <p>f-1. Support the fight for marriage equality for Northern Ireland</p> <p>Katt briefly outlined the background of marriage equality for Northern Ireland and clarified the SU’s beliefs in terms of this issue.</p>	<p>Resolved to accept the motion.</p>

<p>Questions:</p> <p>Ebie Edwards Cole asked why VP women is working on this issue rather than VP cooperation?</p> <p>Katt Walton, VP Women explained that Ellie Macdonald, VP Welfare & Equal Opportunity was busy and they are sharing information. The motion involves women right, and thus Katt Walton is doing it.</p> <p>f-2. National Student Survey Update</p> <p>Alex Kumer explained the background and some purposes of the NSS Survey, and clarified following points: 1. NSS is not remotely fit for purpose; 2. The NSS is a key part of a bad policy; 3. Oxford SU’s NSS boycott was successful last year.</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>Oliver Besley, Jesus college, asked about the positive aspects of NSS</p> <p>Alex Kumer said that there are other ways that fit the purposes and students can provide feedback, such as Times Higher Education Survey. Those are better methods of gathering students’ feedback and engaging teaching quality, whereas NSS does not fit in the purpose, enhance the marketization and stratification of higher education, and raising tuition fees; Alex Kumer highlighted again that NSS fails to solve the basic problem and he encouraged students to use other ways to provide feedback.</p> <p>Joe Lovell-mcnamee, Wadham college, asked if the boycott has been supported by NUS and UCU.</p> <p>Alex Kumer said that boycott has been supported by UCU.</p> <p>Lucas Bertholdi-Saad, VP Access and Academic Affairs, highlighted that UCU actually supports the boycott, but he didn’t expect any concrete supports by the NUS policy.</p> <p>Amendment: Strike Resolves</p> <p>f-3. Establish the Graduate Assess Survey Project</p> <p>Louis Morris, Pembroke, explained the background and proposed the project (Appendix A).</p> <p>Questions:</p>	<p>Resolved by 95% vote for and 5%against to accept the motion.</p>
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<p>Gwynfor Morgan, Exeter college, asked if the council can only approve limited budget - £ 1800.</p> <p>The chair explained that £ 1800 allows 16 projects.</p> <p>Lucas Bertholdi-Saad asked whether they are looking at PGT OR PGR or just PG students?</p> <p>Louis Morris said that it depends on their negotiation with their employees, but they are aiming at all PG.</p> <p>Neil Misra, Oriel college, asked about their data collection in terms of international PG students.</p> <p>Louis Morris said that they are aware of the problem, they tend to compare the UK PG data with UK UG data, and they will look into the problem.</p> <p>f-4. Establish the Diversity and Equality Conference 2019 Project</p> <p>Marianna Lovato presented their motion (Appendix B), highlighted that their project focuses on widening the accessibility, and addressed that their funding will be from multiple sources, such as from Lincoln and Mansfield College.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Lucas Bertholdi-Saad asked what is the full funding for the project?</p> <p>??: £ 1100.</p> <p>Louis Morris, Pembroke; Allison D’ambrosia, SU; Ebie Edwards Cole; asked about the potential to cut down the spending in Sign Language Interpreter and suggested to set up budgets to meet the needs.</p> <p>Marianna Lovato explained that they have tried to cute down the price of hiring a professional Sign Language Interpreter from £700 to £500.</p> <p>Katt Walton asked if students need to sign up for the event and if there will be accessibility listed.</p> <p>Marianna Lovato said yes and the event will be free, except the formal dinner. There will be accessibility parking etc.</p> <p>Constantin Schneider, Pembroke, asked if the funds can be returned to the council.</p>	<p>Resolved to accept the motion.</p>
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	<p>Oxford SU: Yes, there is a payback process.</p> <p>Amendment: If £500 for any accessibility need for attendance of the conference and if it is not need, the remainder will be returned to the SU at the following council.</p>	
g.	<p>Items for discussion</p> <p>g-1. Mental Health</p> <p>Ellie Macdonald summarised her work in terms of mental health campaign, mental health awareness week and asked the council's opinions of mental health issues and different supporting services. What can be improved of mental health services within the university?</p> <p>Issues:</p> <p>Gwynfor Morgan, Exeter; Neil Misra, Oriel; Kendya Goodman, New, stated that the mental health problem is being badly treated and time issue of university counselling service.</p> <p>Luke Chester, Balliol, said that there is a shortage of peer supporters and university should be more aware of the severe mental health issues;</p> <p>Daria Lysyakova, Mansfield, said the shortage of college counsellors and the complexity of the access – too many forms need to be filled out.</p> <p>Suggestions:</p> <p>Kendya Goodman, New; June Samo, Mansfield; Ebie Edwards cole, New said that university counselling service should provide the diversity of treatment and specific strategies, such as, provide long term service, and shorten response time;</p> <p>Staszek Welsh, University, colleges and departments should offer more supports.;</p> <p>Luke Chester, Balliol, suggested that more information of severe mental health problem should be provided.</p> <p>June Samo, Mansfield, suggested the importance of peer supports for students.</p> <p>Ellie Macdonald responded to the peer supports, maybe there will be online supports and there will have peer support training sessions. she clarified that the general bad mental health is the core issue.; she is pushing common</p>	

	room to make some changes and is trying to set a meeting with counselling service to talk about the forms.	
h.	Any Other Business	