

Opened at 2.37pm. Abigail Coates (St Hilda's) in the chair.

a. Minutes of last meeting

5th Week Michaelmas minutes approved. 7th Week minutes have not yet been produced by Ed Argar.

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) asked for it to be noted that his name was now spelt 'Sacha'. George Rowell (Magdalen) objected to this and moved that names on birth certificates only should be used. The Chair ruled that 'Sacha' was in order for the purposes of future minutes.

b. Matters arising

None

c. Ratifications

1. John Craig, New , for Co-Chair Academic Affairs

George Rowell (Magdalen) asked why John felt he was qualified for this post. Sacha explained his qualifications which are listed in 1st Week Exec minutes. John Courouble (Campion Hall) disputed the effectiveness of the ratification process. Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) pointed out that under standing orders ratifications are either opposed or unopposed. Chair proceeded to put the question.

George Rowell (Magdalen) declared this intolerable; a suppression of accountability and **moved a procedural motion to allow debate**. The Chair refused. George Rowell then **moved a motion no confidence in the Chair**.

(Returning Officer now in the Chair - No confidence motion)

Speech in Proposition: George Rowell stated that Council is a farce. It is either a rubber stamp or nothing. His motion would allow debate that is essential.

Speech in opposition: Jason Dorsett (Oriol) stated that this ruling of non-discussion is designed to make OUSU more streamlined and governable. Too many decisions at Council is unhealthy and the Chair was right to refuse.

Move to a vote – carried.

Question put – That Council has no confidence in the Chair:

For – 4

Against – lots

Motion clearly defeated

(Abigail Coates resumed the Chair)

Question put, that John Craig be ratified as Co-Chair of Academic Affairs Committee:

On show of hands the **motion was clearly carried**

2. Katherine Bartlett (St Peter's) as Co-Chair of NUS Committee

On show of hands the **motion was clearly carried**

3. James Rowlands (Pembroke) as Co-Chair of Disabilities Committee

On show of hands the **motion was clearly carried**

4. Colin Anderson (Somerville) as Co-Chair of OUSU Reps Committee

George Rowell (Magdalen) once again objected to the Chair's handling of business. He stated the same reasons as previous. He then moved **another motion no confidence in the Chair.**

(Returning Officer now in the Chair - No confidence motion)

Speech in Proposition: George Rowell stated that Council is still a farce.

Speech in Opposition: Alex Freudmann (Magdalen) stated that if you disagree with the current system you change it via procedures and not by causing unacceptable trouble in Council.

Move to a vote – carried.

Question put – That Council has no confidence in the Chair:

For – 1

Against – lots

Motion clearly defeated

(Abigail Coates resumed the Chair)

On a show of hands, the motion to ratify Colin Anderson **was clearly carried.**

5. Jeff Glekin (Mansfield) for OUSU Press Officer

On a show of hands the **motion was clearly carried**

d. Elections in Council

Executive Member:

4 candidates, having signalled their intention to stand, hustled before Council.

1. Sonia Sodha (St Hilda's)

Her main priority was to make OUSU more accountable and relevant. Better communication is needed. A better presence during Freshers Week is necessary. OUSU should continue to be anti-fees and provide support. Regional Workshops for Target Schools were an important idea she would like to pursue. Library opening hours to be extended was also a key concern. She will make sure she comes to meetings and make OUSU more relevant for 1st years.

2. Heenal Rajani (Merton)

He has had experience as JCR IT and Libraries Rep. He also ran for exec in MT and came 11th – 6 votes short of a seat. He is also part of the OUSU web management team.

He wants to make sure people know what OUSU stands for. He already attends Academic Affairs Committee along with Queer Rights and Finance and Funding. He has also been on lots of protests. He will be able to represent the views of ordinary students to exec.

3. Ed Griffiths (St John's)

Ed stated this was the first time he had stood for anything within OUSU. His main reason was that nearly 300 voters had voted for a Communist and he believed that democratic mandate should continue. His main concern was to refocus attention on OUSU as a campaigning body. A central student union is not a priority. He personally would donate all CSU money so far raised to a homeless charity. OUSU must also affiliate to outside organisations such as the one to repeal anti-Trade Union Laws. OUSU must also cement links with other tertiary education providers. OUSU also has a duty to be more democratic and not be run by small groups.

4. George Callaghan (Univ)

OUSU does not produce enough paperwork. His main priority is to extend the bureaucracy. He declared membership of the Conservative and Unionist Party. When elected he would stop all politically correct mania. His own sex life is entirely self-satisfactory and therefore would crusade against free condoms.

Questions to Candidates:

Jason Dorsett (Oriell) asked if candidates had any areas of OUSU policy where they would find it difficult to uphold Council's decision?

George stated OUSU Fees policy; Ed stated that his would pursue his own agenda but would abide by all policy decisions; Heenal stated exec cannot decide policy and would uphold all Council mandates; Sonia declared no policies would conflict.

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked the candidates if they were Communist?

Ed stated he was a member of the Communist Party; Heenal declared he was a communist but not in the party as he didn't believe in party lines; Sonia said no; George said he is but then decided he wasn't really.

Move to a Vote. Vicki Tomlinson (BNC) objected as there were still questions to be asked.

Council voted – clearly carried.

George Rowell (Magdalen) claimed the Chair was biased and had not properly checked that everyone who had voted could so do. The Chair made an appeal for only those eligible to vote so to do. The vote was retaken and once again was clearly carried.

George Rowell (Magdalen) then tried to move a recorded vote for the main vote. Jason Dorsett (Oriell) pointed out this was impossible as all Elections in Council are by secret ballot.

Council then voted.

Chair of OUSU Complaints Board

Ed Turner (St Johns) was the only candidate and he hustled:

Ed stated that it was important that someone who is not too involved in OUSU does the job. He waited until after the MT elections to avoid any charge of bias. It is important that mechanisms exist within OUSU to resolve problems internally. We must make the procedures transparent. He had experience as a previous Chair of this body along with being NUS/OUSU rep 2 years ago and OUSU rep on the Disabilities Committee.

Questions

Jason Dorsett (Oriell) asked if he had any outstanding political commitments? Ed replied that he had but would apply all the rules objectively in a non-political way.

George Rowell (Magdalen) asked what he would do about the monstrous mess that is OxStu punctuation? Ed stated that he would look at the Code and measure any complaint against it.

George Callaghan (Univ) asked why Ed wore an earring? Ed replied that it was none of his business.

Michael Atkins (BNC) asked if OUSU by-elections should be done via a cross campus ballot? Ed stated that this had no relevance to the job.

Move to a vote. Carried.

Council then proceeded to vote.

e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

President

Anneliese Dodds (St Hildas) stated that she had had a busy start to the year. Her main preoccupation had been sorting out the welfare of those people suspended by the university. She has also been looking into how the Education Act 1994 applies to the Student Union and is seeking reform to it.

George Rowell (Magdalen) asked the President to explain all her work in the finest detail.

Before she could begin, a point of order was heard that John Storey (Somerville) be expelled from Council. The chair refused to do this. George Rowell (Magdalen) then moved that her ruling should be overturned as John Storey clearly needed to be expelled for being such a fine Executive Officer and the only one to do any work. He then moved a **motion of no confidence in the Chair**.

(Returning Officer now in the Chair - No confidence motion)

Speech in Proposition: George Rowell stated that the Chair was being deliberately biased.

Speech in Opposition: Laura Paskell-Brown (St Hilda's) stated that George was wasting everyone's time with spurious motions.

Move to a vote – carried.

Question put – That Council has no confidence in the Chair:

For – 3

Against – lots

Motion clearly defeated

(Abigail Coates resumed the Chair)

The Chair now moved a motion of expulsion against George Rowell (Magdalen) for breaching SO's in deliberately interrupting the Chair consistently and creating an intimidatory atmosphere.

George Rowell (Magdalen) stated that the Chair was biased and that she was anti-democratic in refusing to let him speak the truth.

Move to a vote – Carried

Move to a recorded vote – Defeated on a show of hands

Move to a secret ballot – Defeated on a show of hands

Quorum Count Request – failed to achieve the requisite 10 vote support

Vote on the main motion – by a show of hands Council voted more than 2/3 in favour of the motion.

George Rowell (Magdalen) was accordingly expelled from Council.

Sabbatical Reports cont...

VP-Finance

Alex Freudmann (Magdalen) reported that the Term Diary was out on time. There would be a complete report on the budget later this year.

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The meeting then broke down in complete chaos. An Oriel head-porter requested George Rowell to leave the room. John Steward (Pembroke) asked that the Thames Valley Police be called.

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John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked the Sabs who was now the OUSU Education Officer? Steph Gray (Pembroke) replied that the Exec member who is in charge of Academic Affairs is usually it by default. Mary Stevens has indicated this will continue.

David Brewis (Oriel) asked if the Term Diary made a £9000 loss last year? Alex Freudmann (Magdalen) replied that the loss was actually £7000 but for this year the Diary is on target to break even.

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) asked Alex if it was true he had gone to Cambridge Students Union and offered to suspend all ethical policies regarding companies in the Oxbridge Careers Guide.

Alex replied that this was not true but the meeting was to bash out certain problems as Cambridge have banned advertising from companies that we have not.

Vicki Tomlinson (BNC) asked about how effective term diary distribution was. Alex replied that it should be getting better and everyone should have one.

VP-Welfare

Alice Hodgson (New) reported that she had done a living out talk at Somerville and would do so in other colleges if they so desire. She is reviewing the Living Out Guide. The subject of her no-confidence motion that was withdrawn, the Year out through illness problem, is actually being dealt with by the student advisor and some results should be known soon.

No questions

VP-Women

Rachel Griffin (Exeter) reported that the pro choice pack was nearly ready; the Night March Reclaim the Night would be happening on Thursday; 9th Week MT she attended a Women's Graduate Lunch; there will be a Women's Open Day on 3rd June; there is an on-going investigation into finals and the first finals forum will be held in 7th Week.

No questions

VP- Graduates

Jason Dorsett (Oriell) stated that he had been working on the graduate section of the website; there will be an e-mail based newsletter shortly; he is working with the exec member i/c of International Students to highlight their problems; he has finished his report on elections and has clarified it such that Exec decided to examine reforms to the electoral system.

Questions to VP-Graduates

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked about concerns in the reworking of the STV system. Jason asked him to read the front page of his report for a full answer.

Michael Atkins (BNC) asked Jason to apologise for suggesting he engaged in 'vigilante justice' over the election period.

Jason said that he had not said that and it was the OxStu making the connection. He was talking generally. If you feel the OxStu has caused problems you should refer it to the Complaints Board.

f. Reports from Executive Members who wish to make reports

Jon Worth (Merton) apologised for not being present to make his report as he had not expected Council to take so long to get this far. Instead he had to attend a memorial service for a Merton student.

Michael Atkins (BNC) moved that there be 1 minute silence for the Merton student. Duly carried and 1 minute's silence was taken.

Hanna Kwiatkowska (St Hilda's) hoped that JCR Presidents had received invitations to the International Students event on Wednesday.

John Storey (Somerville) had campaigned on the issue of Grants not Fees but not in favour on non-payment. Over Christmas he had campaigned on environment issues, by going hunting.

David Brewis (Oriell) apologised for doing absolutely nothing since being elected.

Questions to Executive Members

? (Wadham) asked John Storey what his actions exactly were in supporting Grants not Fees? He replied that it involved stripping off to his pants and walking down the Broad with a banner saying 'Pants not Fees'.

Ben Harris (St Hugh's) asked John Storey how he had campaigned on environmental issues? John replied that it was by hunting on his horse, except when it was lame.

Ben Harris (St Hugh's) asked John Storey if he felt that hunting was a real environmental issue. Initially, John stated that he didn't give a 'flying fuck' what Ben thought. The Chair called him to order over bad language. John Storey explained that he believed he had actually said 'flying fox'. The Chair withdrew the allegation.

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked which Executive members were not present? Anneliese Dodds replied that Mary Stevens and Jon Worth were not present – both of whom had given apologies.

Sacha Ismail asked Hanna Kwiatkowska how her manifesto commitment to abolish VP-Women is progressing? Hanna replied that such a statement is misleading – she wants to convert VP Women into VP Equal Opportunities. It is not possible at present to have both.

g. Emergency Motions

Motion 1 – Stagecoach and Section 28

Michael Van Gelderen (St Hughs) outlined the history of section 28. The repeal of the law is currently moving thorough parliament. Brian Souter has given personal money of his own through his own charitable foundation to prevent this repeal.

Short Factual Questions:

Alex Freudmann (Magdalen) asked if it was his own money? Michael replied that that it was but channelled via his personal foundation.

What % of Stagecoach is owned by him? Not known

Does stagecoach own the Oxford Tube? Yes

Debate:

Sean Sullivan (SEH) stated that Mr Souter had the right to do with his money what he liked. He can donate to any political cause. A number of students also support Section 28.

Kirsty McNeill (Balliol) stated that this motion is a clear application of existing OUSU policy.

Anjoum Noorani (Balliol) pointed out that if you disagree with the actions of another person it is quite justified for others to boycott their products.

Alex Freudmann (Magdalen) opposed the motion as it was the wrong approach. Mr Souter's actions have nothing to do with corporate decisions.

Bill Turner (St John's) pointed out that all the motion does is highlight the issue. Lots of student money will turn into his profits and it is important students know what he then does with those profits.

Tony Lord (Wadham) pointed out that boycotts can work and the Bank of Scotland had backed down after immense pressure in the Pat Robertson affair.

Move to a vote – Carried

On a show of hands, **the motion was clearly carried**

Motion 2 – Hail to the Chief

Michael Atkins (BNC) read out his motions and pointed out that all his were senior than Sacha's on the agenda.

Antonia Bance (Somerville) pointed out that the agenda was all to do with order of submission.

Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) confirmed this, and stated that any problems with the agenda should be referred to herself and the Office Manager.

Vicki Tomlinson (BNC) asked if there was a vote imminent by the Bar Society to bin Sacha? Michael said yes.

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) asked if Michael was aware Sasha can also be a masculine name in certain circumstances? Michael said he didn't as he knew no Russian.

John Storey (Somerville) then complained the President had used intimidatory language to him. The President withdrew any remarks.

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) stated in opposition that motions are nothing to do with ordering; it is blatantly offensive and let's get on with Council.

Move to a vote – Carried

On a show of hands, **the motion was clearly defeated**

Motion 3 – Stagecoach

The motion was amended thus:

Strike Council resolves I and replace with new Council resolves I as follows : “ to refer the possibility of a ban on advertising from Stagecoach to the OUSU Ethics Committee, which shall report upon the matter no later than 3rd Week Council Hilary term 2000”

Bill Turner (St John's) stated that if we have a policy against Section 28 then we should have an advertising ban as well. OUSU may lose money but ethics must be placed higher.

Short factual questions:

Jason Dorsett (Oriol) asked the proposer if he would accept an ethics report not out in advance? Bill said yes.

? (Magdalen) asked if this was a pro-car motion? Bill stated that was an issue but it shouldn't be as most bus services offered by stagecoach were duplicated by City Buses.

Debate:

Sean Sullivan (SEH) opposed the motion as it would see a loss of revenue.

James Littlefair (Jesus) explained that Stagecoach spent £12000 with us which if removed would make a big dent in OUSU budgets. OUSU may have to divert resources away from it.

Kirsty McNeill (Balliol) stated that all the motion called for was a report – let us wait until that emerges before deciding.

Move to a vote – Carried

On a show of hands, **the motion was clearly carried**

h. Ordinary Motions passed Nem-Con

None

j. First Readings of Motions to amend the Constitution or Standing Orders

Motion 1 – Student Representation

The amendment from the green sheet was not accepted.

Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) explained that for the first time this motion will make explicit in SO's what OUSU elects to all outside bodies. There are no real changes created by this motion.

The motion was read a first time without opposition

Motion 2 – Representation of Minorities

Not moved

m. Other motions

Motion 1 – Affiliation to CFE

Antonia Bance (Somerville) stated that the Education Act 1994 requires annual affiliation to any outside organisation. By reaffiliating to CFE, OUSU is reaffirming its commitment to free education and shows symbolic support for the slate in Motion 14.

Short factual questions:

Jason Dorsett (Oriell) asked if our current structures gives us a say in CFE? Antonia stated they did not but OUSU can be represented by the South West reps.

The motion then passed without opposition

A procedural motion was carried which brought Motion 12 to be considered next and Motion 2 to be considered 12th.

Motion 12 – Demonstration

The motion was amended to strike out Saturday 5th and replace with Sunday 13th. Amendment accepted

Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) explained that we had to change the date of the demo due to police budgetary constraints. A national march like this would be brilliant for reinvigorating media attention. NUS President confirmed he would speak.

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked if Andrew Pakes would be lynched? Anneliese hoped that people would be sensible.

Ed Turner (St Johns') asked if JCR's had been consulted? Anneliese stated that some had been but there had not been enough time to discuss it with all so far.

The motion then passed without opposition

Motion 3 – Higher Education Survey

Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) stated that this motion will give OUSU the mandate to cover further research on this issue.

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked how many replies had been received? Anneliese stated it was pushing 200.

Vicki Tomlinson (BNC) asked what further research was required? Anneliese stated that she hoped the distribution of the survey could now cover all schools on our Target School database.

The motion then passed without opposition

Motion 4 – Chechnya

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) said we should condemn Russia for their actions and recognise the rights of Chechens to self-determination.

Short Factual questions:

Michael Atkins (BNC) asked on what day Jeremy Corbyn's EDM will be discussed? Sacha said it was widely known that Early Day Motions are never usually discussed.

Michael Atkins (BNC) asked what competence Sacha has in the field of Chechnya politics. Sacha replied that he had none

The Chair tried to close debate. John Storey demanded that he had his hand up and the Chair had deliberately ignored him. He then moved **another motion of no confidence in the Chair.**

(Returning Officer (Anneliese Dodds, St Hilda's) now in the Chair - No confidence motion)

Speech in Proposition: John Storey stated that the Chair had failed to recognise him.

Speech in Opposition: Jason Dorsett (Oriell) stated that John was being deliberately obstructive and wasting Council's time.

Move to a vote – carried.

Question put – That Council has no confidence in the Chair:

For – 1

Against – lots

Motion clearly defeated

(Abigail Coates resumed the Chair)

The Chair then moved a motion to expel John Storey for deliberately obstructing Council.

Move to a vote – Carried

On a show of hands, **a clear 2/3 majority was obtained and John Storey was accordingly expelled from Council.**

On a show of hands, **Motion 4 was clearly carried.**

A procedural motion under S.O 3.2 (b) was then moved: Joel Brookfield (Keble) moved that Motions 5-9 inclusive either are not put or moved until the end of the meeting.

Michael Atkins (BNC) objected to this as he thought his motions were serious.

Michael Atkins refused to obey a Chair's ruling to finish speaking after his allotted time. The Chair moved to expel Michael Atkins from Council.

Move to a vote – carried

On a show of hands, **a clear 2/3 majority was obtained and accordingly Michael Atkins was expelled from Council.**

George Callaghan (Univ) moved **another motion no confidence in the Chair.**

(Returning Officer now in the Chair - No confidence motion)

George Callaghan (Univ) stated that she was a woman scorned in love and was bitterly undertaking a vendetta against Michael Atkins.

Antonia Bance (Somerville) stated that there had been far too many motions of NC and our opinions cannot have changed so drastically in 1 hr.

Move to a vote – carried.

Question put – That Council has no confidence in the Chair:

For – 2

Against – lots

Motion clearly defeated

(Abigail Coates resumed the Chair)

She proceeded to put the question on the procedural motion which was carried.

On a point of order, Vicki Tomlinson (BNC) argued that the Chair was being deliberately misleading and had not clarified which option we were voting on –either to lie the motions on the table or to re-order the motions until the end.

Chair clarified that it was a motion to lie upon the table. The vote was retaken and the motion clearly carried.

The Chair then moved to expel George Callaghan for constant disruption of the meeting.

Move to a vote – Carried

On a show of hands, **a 2/3 majority was obtained and accordingly George Callaghan was expelled from Council.**

Motion 10 – Chiapas

Motion passed without opposition

Motion 11 – International Students Network Co-ordinator

Hanna Kwiatkowska (St Hilda's) outlined the motion. An explanation of the role can be found in Exec minutes of 0th Week HT2000

Short Factual Questions:

Vicki Tomlinson (BNC) asked if this was something useful that could be put on the website? Yes it could

Catherine Wallis (Keble) asked how much this would cost? Hanna did not know

Vicki Tomlinson (BNC) asked if there were IS reps in all colleges? Hanna stated that the committee was dormant at the moment but meeting for the first time next week.

The motion then passed without opposition

Motion 2 – Bodleian Library

Anneliese Dodds (St Hilda's) proposed the motion as it would create a useful archive for OUSU.

Short factual questions:

Will Garood (ChCh) asked if any alternative venues were considered? Anneliese replied that yes they were but Bodleian was felt to be the best.

? (Magdalen) asked if a public library would be better given Bodleian admission problems? Anneliese stated that Oxford does not have a public library with these kind of facilities and people can apply to use the Bodleian.

James Hinksman (Univ) asked if today's Council minutes would be in the Bodleian for all time. Anneliese stated that there was a good chance.

Vicki Tomlinson (BNC) asked that in the light of confidential papers in OUSU, what would the rules for these be? Anneliese stated that we would use the Bodleian guidelines for collection; In camera stuff would be subject to a timelimit; casework would not be deposited nor personal correspondence and the Office Manager is an apolitical role so is best placed to decide.

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked if copies of important stuff would be kept in OUSU? Yes.

Sacha Ismail (Somerville) asked if the Office Manager was happy to do this? Yes

Vicki Tomlinson (BNC) asked what the time limit for in-camera stuff? Anneliese stated that it was inappropriate to set a time limit that was rigid – normally stuff will be released when it has ceased to be a live issue.

Move to a vote – Carried

The motion was passed without opposition

Motion 13 – Entz Report

Eleanor Fletcher (Worcester) stated that the report states it all. Despite the loss there was a suitable platform now created to build from.

Short factual question:

Hanna Kwiatkowska (St Hilda's) asked how £200 was spent at the party? Eleanor stated it was on tinsel, party poppers, a tree etc...

Dan ? (Queens) asked how this party related to previous ones? Alex Freudmann stated that this was a different approach to CockSoc and we were on a steep learning curve.

Vicki Tomlinson (BNC) asked what the cost of the OxStu advert? It was free but currently under review. Further, how many free invites? This was decided by VP-Finance and the Business Manager

John Courouble (Campion Hall) asked if there was any link between invites to Oxford Union 'Pressie Drinks' and free tickets? Eleanor stated that she had only been to one pressie drinks after the party had taken place.

Hanna Kwiatkowska (St Hilda's) asked why DJ hire was so expensive? 2 DJ's were hired that night.

Vicki Tomlinson (BNC) knew of someone in BNC who might DJ for free in the future.

The motion then passed without opposition

Motion 14 – Slate for NUS Conference

Ed Turner (St John's) moved a procedural motion to lay this motion on the table until the next meeting.

Agreed without opposition

n. Any Other Business

John Courouble (Campion Hall) congratulated VP-Finance for the Council advertising.

Jason Dorsett (Oriel) asked if people could clear up the room as it was in his name and he didn't want to antagonise the College authorities.

John Steward (Pembroke) congratulated the Chair for all her efforts.

Jason Dorsett (Oriel) thanked all members of Council for attending and stated that the preceding disrupted council was unacceptable, this would not happen again.

The meeting then closed at 6.25pm