

OUSU Council Minutes Friday, 1st Week, Hilary, 2002.

Ratifications in council. The following were ratified.

1. Graduate Finance
2. Ostle Report recommendations.
3. Office space for graduates who teach.

Oxford Student Editors

Christina Stokes (Trinity)
Joseph McCauley (ChCh)

Deputy Editor (News & Sport)

Sarah Birke (New)

Deputy Editor (Features & Columns)

Miriam Quick (ChCh)

Deputy Editor (OX2)

Richard Brooks (Corpus)

Finance & Funding

Helena Puig Larrauri (St Hilda's)

Laura Santana (St Hilda's)

Daniel Harkin (SEH)

Anti-Racism Committee

Amira Tharani (Balliol)

Nailah Mears (Somerville)

Health & Welfare

James Collins (St Peter's)

OUSU Reps Committee

Sarah Livermore (New)

Reports to Council.

President.

Ruth Hunt (St. Hilda's): Additions to her report.

1. OUSU at present needs a RO and a DRO.
2. OUSU at present needs a V-P Graduates and if one is not found there are two possibilities. First that graduate representation will deteriorate as other sabbatical offices take over the role of the V-P Grad. or second graduates will be taken out of OUSU.
3. The details of a 'Today Program' survey of the Russel League of universities was reported to council.
4. Colin Lucas's speech at the Oxford Union on Thursday was summarised.
5. A report on broadening access to universities was noted.

Questions.

Sacha Ismail (Some): With the loss of the V-P Grad., how would graduates be taken out of OUSU.

Ruth Hunt (St. Hilda's): It would be a complex process involving a constitutional amendment.

V-P Finance.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): The development with e fusion radio was highlighted.

Questions.

Josh Kern (Pem.): Could council minutes please be attached to e-mails in a word document.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): yes.

Heenal Rajani (Mert.): Could you please explain the new web site design contract.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): There would be no change in the design of the site but all OUSU officers would be able to put things onto the web site. This will eventually be opened up to Oxford University societies. This will also, help to generate revenue from the web site by selling advertising.

Andrew Thomas (St. Anne's): Will OUSU limits on advertising be respected by the national company.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): The company are aware of this sensitivity.

Heenal Rajani (Mert.): How long will the contact last for and what is the revenue split?

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): The contract will last for 5 years and the revenue split is for OUSU 70% for local advertising and 30% for national revenue.

V-P Welfare.

James Rowlands (Pem.): 4th. week Diversity Week was highlighted.
No questions.

V-P Women.

Antonia Bance (Some.): Goldman Sachs have now given money to OUSU. The following were highlighted:

1. Finals Forums for women to help with finals revision.
2. Women's cabaret.
3. The night bus.

Questions.

Mel Marshall(ChCh): Is Night bus a good thing to drive or to navigate.

Antonia Bance (Some.): Yes and drivers can earn up to £7/ hour.

Liz Char (Lina.): Is a second night bus a possibility.

Antonia Bance (Some.): Yes for the future.

Josh Kern (Pem.): Deans have been talking about a university organised night bus.

Sacha Ismail (Some.): What is the phone number for the night bus.

Antonia Bance (Some.):07754516172.

V-P AcAf.

John Craig (New): The following were added to the report:

1. I have attended BBC News 24 today.
2. The alternative prospectus will now be available free of charge and £1000 has been given to the target schools campaign for entz.
3. John asked for everyone to inform him of any cuts back in teaching provision within their colleges.

There were not questions asked.

V-P Grad.

The following additions were made to the report:

1. Duties performed since the break were highlighted.

2. Packs will be being sent out to MCR Presidents including the Oxford Directories.

3. There would be training offered to Treasurers for battles negotiations going head including MCR Treasurers.

There were no questions asked.

Executive Reports.

Duncan Weldon (Some.): There is an upcoming accommodation committee meeting and co-chairs are needed for this committee. Co chairs are also required for the NUS committee.

Rachel Logan (New): Entz co-chairs are required.

It was agreed that a list of exec.'s portfolios would be sent out in the next OUSU mail.

EMERGENCY MOTIONS.

I. E FUSION.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): I am investigating OUSU having a radio station and this is a good thing. Please pass the motion and I will return in third week council to provide an update.

Short Factual Questions.

Ed Southerden (Some.): Why have you brought this motion, I trust you.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): TO allow OUSU members to know what is going on.

Vino Sangaripalli (St. Hug.): Would OUSU have to cover the costs if the radio station lost money?

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): Oxford Radio Trust will help to cover the costs.

John Townsend (Univ.): What is the benefit to Oxford Students of a radio station given the costs.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): There are no major costs.

Chris McBride (Wad): Have you thought about a joint venture with Oxford Brookes.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): Yes but there are no large costs to cover.

Chris Hanretty (St. Anne's): Are the total costs zero.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): All that is needed at the moment is egg box sound proofing.

Liz Char (Lina.): Where would the radio station be based.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): In a small room in OUSU.

John Townsend (Univ.): Is Eleanor willing to have allow private advertising.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): Yes.

No speech in opposition, the motion was duly carried.

OTHER MOTIONS.

Motion 3 (Welfare Training) was passed nem con.

MOTION 1: RETURNING OFFICERS REPORT.

Ruth Hunt (St. Hilda's): It was explained what the report was and it was described as excellent.

Short Factual Questions.

Mel Marshall (ChCh): Why no full election results in the report will they be presented.

Ruth Hunt (St. Hilda's): They will be brought to the next council.

There was no speak in opposition, the motion was duly passed.

MOTION 2: REVIEW OF ELECTORAL REGULATIONS.

Andrew Thomas (St. Anne's): This is a simple motion which proposes to establish a commission to review the electoral regulations. This is needed because such a review has not occurred for some time and some of the elements within the regulations are unenforceable.

Short factual questions.

Peter Morton (Some.): Which regulations have the proctors raised concern about.

Ruth Hunt (St. Hilda's): The junior Proctor is amused by the regulations and that OUSU can get away with having them. Also, we need a lawyer for the commission.

Josh Kern (Pem.): How much time will this take for Ruth?

Ruth Hunt (St. Hilda's): Antonia may take my place.

Friendly Amendment that Antonia replace Ruth as the sabbatical officer with responsibility for the commission.

Marcus Walker (Oriol): What is the quorum, could it be packed?

Ruth Hunt (St. Hilda's): Oriol members are welcome and the recommendations will be made to council for ratification and they must also be accepted by Governing Body.

Chris Hanretty (St. Anne's): Will the RO's recommendations be considered.

Andrew Thomas (St. Anne's): Yes they will.

Speech in opposition.

Mel Marshall (ChCh): There are good reasons for many of the rules.

Ruth Hunt (St. Hilda's): I am aware of this - a lot of the problems are linguistic.

Helena Puig Larrauri (St. Hilda's): I was on elections committee and I would ask you to support this motion.

John Craig (New): Move to a vote.

The motion was unopposed and was duly carried.

4. ACCESS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

James Rowlands (Pem.): OUSU needs new premises to meet new legislation that is coming into force. OUSU cannot afford this and the university is unwilling to help. If there are any disabled students who wish to receive OUSU services and cannot gain access to the building then they should contact OUSU and people will come out to them.

Short Factual Questions:

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): Could we have a chair lift in the OUSU offices.

James Rowlands (Pem.): No this is not a possibility.

Sacha Ismail (Some.): What is the university saying about this?

James Rowlands (Pem.): The university does not believe that OUSU is acting in contravention of the new legislation.

John Townsend (Univ): How long has OUSU been in the current offices.

Eleanor Fletcher (Worc.): Since 1986.

John Townsend (Univ): Were it not for the new law would OUSU need to move?

James Rowlands (Pem.): Yes because of other pieces of legislation.

Chris Hanretty (St. Anne's): How can we convince the university of its responsibilities?

James Rowlands (Pem.): There are a variety of options.

Sonia Sodha (St. Hilda's): It the new legislation also going to affect colleges?

James Rowlands (Pem.): Yes.

John Townsend (univ.): It this being used as a ploy for a CSV?

James Rowlands (Pem.): A CSV is immaterial; disabled access is paramount.

Ruth Hunt (St. Hilda's): It would be the same as the current offices but in a different place.

There being no opposition the motion was duly passed.

MOTION 5: HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING.

Sacha Ismail (Some.): OUSU policy is to fund higher education through general taxation. This motion clarifies the use of general taxation as it states that general taxation should not mean that higher education should be funded at the price of cuts in other welfare spending such as NHS spending. This needs to be clarified. Also, the UK is among the top 5 EU defence spending countries.

Short Factual Questions:

Oscar van Nooijen (Queens): Would this be a change in policy?

Sacha Ismail (Some.): No it would just clarify OUSU policy.

Helena Puig Larrauri (St. Hilda's): How does it change OUSU policy?

Sacha Ismail (Some.): It would remove non-welfare spending and replace it with military spending.

Amendment.

Resolves I to replace non-welfare state spending with military spending as a means to fund higher education.

Sean Sullivan (SEH): What is the definition of military spending and how is OUSU to decide this?

Sacha Ismail(Some.): We do not need to specify – we only need to establish a principle.

John Cook (LMH): Why military spending?

Sacha Ismail(Some.): Military spending is not worthwhile.

Chris McBride (Wad.): Does OUSU have policy to remove nuclear weapons?

Antonia Bance (Some.): No.

John Craig (New): Is military spending the money which is being spent to rebuild Afghanistan?

Sacha Ismail(Some.): no that would fall under the aid budget.

Speech in opposition.

Sean Sullivan (SEH): It is not for students to propose to the government how to fund higher education in our uneducated and ignorant way. Military spending includes peace keeping in Afghanistan. Sacha is advocating his dodgy political agenda. The place to do this is in an AWL meeting not it a Council meant to represent students so vote down this motion.

Debate:

Sacha Ismail(Some.): Sean's argument is an argument against OUSU having a policy more specific than general taxation. This clarifies OUSU because at the moment the policy would allow cuts in NHS spending to fund increases in higher education spending.

Ben Harris (St. Hug.): F&F discussed this and disagreed with Sean. More people can agree with this policy than the old one. It is inappropriate that we should have a specific policy, we should set up a principle and this motion does this.

Rachel Logan (New): This motion will limit OUSU's opportunity to react to the government so I would ask you to oppose this motion.

Damien Jenkins (St. Hug.): Defence is under funded.

Daniel Harkin (SEH): This is a dangerous motion.

Josh Kern (Pem.): This motion is a political motion. This motion is too specific. The motion presented at the end of last term has greater support than this one.

Chris Hanretty (St. Anne's): This is not a daft motion and we are not uneducated. Council believes I, why is this insufficiently clear – specificity undermines support.

Matt Selwood (New): 1. This motion will not limit F&F reaction to the government because another motion can be brought before Council. 2. I object to Sean calling cuts in defence ridiculous.

Nailah Mears(Some.): Felt that the personal attacks between members of council is inappropriate and has created a bad environment.

Chris McBride (Wad.): I dislike personal nastiness. This motion does not change OUSU policy significantly.

Move to a vote:

For:

Catherine Sangster (Mert.): Everything has been said.

Against:

Heenal Rajani (Mert.): People have not spoken.

FAILED.

Helena Puig Larrauri (St Hilda's): Last motion discussed in F&F so it was more representative. There is no need for this motion.

Josh Kern (Pem.): Amendment.

Council resolves I change to:

That OUSU should campaign for increases in education spending should be funded through progressive taxation and reductions in non-welfare spending, particularly military spending.

Sonia Sodha (St. Hilda's): This motion changes OUSU substantially and I cannot support it because I cannot represent my JCR.

Move to a vote on the amendment.

For:

Sacha Ismail(Some.): We should return to debating the main motion.

AMENDMENT FAILED

John Townsend (Univ.): This motion will alienate students.

Oscar van Nooijen (Queens): What is ridiculous about resolves I. Reducing military spending is the current government policy.

Robin Vales (Mert.): Cuts in military spending will mean that the government will have to turn a blind eye to humanitarian crises.

Move to a vote.

For:

James Lazu (Wad.): I have to go and I want to vote in support of this motion.

Against:

Sacha Ismail(Some.): I want to speak.

PASSED

Summing up.

For:

Sacha Ismail(Some.): This policy will not limit F&F.

Against:

Sean Sullivan (SEH): I try not to be offensive but I can get excited. This motion will limit F&F. This motion makes a farce of F&F. This is not the place to make this decision.

MOTION FAILED.

MOTION 6: Holocaust Day.

Short Factual Questions:

John Townsend (Univ.): Do you intend to send a vote in support to the Israeli government.

James Rowlands (Pem.): No.

Sacha Ismail(Some.): last year there were readings. Will there be readings again this year.

James Rowlands (Pem.): Yes.

SPEECH IN OPPOSITION

John Townsend (Univ.): This motion does not go far enough. We should oppose all oppression on religious grounds. We should send a message of support to the Israeli government.

MOVE TO A VOTE

For:

Nick Anstead (Man.): We should ignore the speech in opposition.

Against:

Withdrawn.

MOTION PASSED.

AOB.

Ellie Murray (Univ.): There are tickets for the Univ. college ball.

Sarah Livermore (New): Announced OUSU Reps. first meeting.

Laura Santana (St. Hilda's): Highlighted F&F meeting.

Damien Jenkins (St. Hug.): Highlighted St. Hug. speaker meetings.

James Rowlands (Pem.): College redistribution meeting and living out guide highlighted.