



**1st Week Council Friday 23rd January 2004 Old Refectory, Wadham**

**a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

*Approved. No matters arising.*

**c. Ratifications in Council**

*Press Officer.*

JB: Press Officer was not properly advertised.

HPL: It was advertised on the website. Conor was the only applicant.

*RATIFIED.*

*Clubs and Society Co-Chair.*

*RATIFIED.*

**e. Reports from sabattical officers**

HPL: Sorry it's brief. Rents support pack is now out. Please email me any corrections.

RD: Feel free to ask me any questions.

RB: Please read adverts on your chair. Equal Opps social last night – lots of new faces, really good. Look at termcards. Come to Holocaust Memorial Day next Tuesday in Wadham. Living out guides are now in colleges – ask Welfare officers. Rough Guide to Welfare and Equal Opps – take a look.

Chair: Please turn off mobile phones.

CW: Can you tell me if you have any nice female tutors.

DP: Please ask questions.

LM: Libraries campaign will kick off this term. Stint reform – lots of questions about this at the moment so please ask me if you have any.

JHB: Look at termcard and my report. Lots of things. Come along. Exeter and St Johns are not sending RAG reps to my meetings. Please ask them to.

*Questions.*

JB: Is F&F being split?

HPL: At the moment we are concentrating the campaign on the bill. Rents stuff is at negotiation and advice stage at the moment.

RV: Nightbus?

CW: Bus was fixed last term in 7<sup>th</sup> week or so and it has been running since then. New posters will be going out soon. New phone number – please take note. Looking into trying to get it running every night – at the moment just Thurs – Sat.

Greg Stafford (St Peter's):

Why is termcard for WEO in such a small and crap font?

RV: Nightbus?

CW: Bus was fixed last term in 7<sup>th</sup> week or so and it has been running since then. New posters will be going out soon.  
New phone number – please take note. Looking into trying to get it running every night – at the moment just Thurs – Sat.

Greg Stafford (St Peter's):  
Why is termcard for WEO in such a small and crap font?

RB: Apologies for that. There are posters.

Dan Simpson (Balliol):  
Not sure why it happened.

JB: Have co-chairs been re-interviewed?

HPL: No – will be soon.

Laurie Burton (Wadham):  
Can you update website please.

#### **h. Passage of Motions *nem. con.***

*1, 3, 4 and 6.*

#### **m. Other Motions**

##### *2. Returning Officer for Statutory Elections*

RD: Want to propose this because budget supports paying the RO. It's my responsibility and we can afford to do it.  
Conor was excellent – if we let people do this for free then we are not saying much about the people that do it. The RO works full time for four or five weeks – is ludicrous not to pay him. It was paid £500 last year.  
In long term we need to look at the way OUSU employs people otherwise we won't get people in the future. It is laid down in the 1994 Education Act that we need one and they should be paid. Dangerous precedent if we don't pay him.

SFQs:

Linsey Cole (St John's):  
Do we have enough money?

RD: £870 left in budget for elections. Grads election should be about £400. Plenty of money.

Dominic Curran (St Hugh's):  
Do we not need more stringent guidelines.

RD: Yes.

Louise Radnofsky (Univ):  
Did we agree before not to pay?

RD: Yes we did. Had a rethink though.

DP: How many hours did the RO do?

CO'N: From Friday of 1<sup>st</sup> Week did about ten hours a week and then on 24 hour call for weeks 4 to 6.

LM: Did we pay when we couldn't get one quite a while ago?

RD: Yes.

*Move to debate.*

*PASSES.*

JB: OUSU has lots of unpaid positions who work very hard. Last years executive made a very clear decision that we would not pay the returning officer. If we do have money left over it is because we made a decision not to spend it – and we may still need it. Conor said he would do this for free – we need to spend this money on our campaigns.

*Move to debate.*

PASSES.

JB: OUSU has lots of unpaid positions who work very hard. Last years executive made a very clear decision that we would not pay the returning officer. If we do have money left over it is because we made a decision not to spend it – and we may still need it. Conor said he would do this for free – we need to spend this money on our campaigns.

Ros Dampier (St Hilda's):

I propose to add 'Resolves 3' as follows: "To pay the RO from Trinity Term 2003 who was led to believe he would be paid £100." It's fair to do this.

JB: I don't want to be paid. Sorry I haven't done the report.

*AMENDMENT FAILS.*

*Move to vote.*

FOR: 28

AGAINST: 30

ABS: 2

Tim Waters (Magdalen):

Conor was excellent. It's a very stressful job and very concentrated. It ought to be paid to ensure that we get good people.

Dominic Curran (St Hugh's):

If we start paying people small amounts do we get into legal problems with the minimum wage.

RD: No we don't.

HPL: This whole point about differences between paid and unpaid officers is those who actually have a good contract. I don't think the exec should have decided not to pay the RO. I wish we did have more money for campaigns but the RO is crucial to OUSU.

Matthew Richardson (St Peter's):

RO wasn't paid for 26 years. Conor agreed to do it unpaid. It was offered as an incentive and we shouldn't need to pay them – we are wasting money.

DP: John Blake said the point of OUSU was to pay people as little as possible. I don't think that's the right attitude. We have to get capable candidates and to do that we need to pay them otherwise we will have farcical and badly run elections.

*Move to vote.*

PASSES.

*Move to vote on clauses separately.*

PASSES.

*Summation speeches on 'Resolves 1':*

RD: Conor did an excellent job and we have the money and it's a dangerous precedent to set by not paying him.

JB: All elected positions are unpaid apart from sabbaticals so we ought to stick to it and stop wasting money.

FOR: 29

AG: 28

ABS: 8

RECOUNT:

FOR: 29

AG: 29

ABS: 8

*Casting Vote of Chair: FOR*

PASSES.

RECOUNT:  
FOR: 29  
AG: 29  
ABS: 8

*Casting Vote of Chair: FOR  
PASSES.*

*Summation speeches for 'Resolves 2':*

HPL: Makes life easier.

PASSES.

*5. Exam Celebrations*

RB: End of exam celebrations is in a bit of a mess – neither the uni nor the police want to police it. I'm here to get your views. There are issues on student safety etc and then with a mandate from council I can explore this further.

CO'N: Throwing wine is committing an act of criminal damage even if the person doesn't complain. I think we should go in and say 'we want people to throw champagne'.

Andrew Copson (Balliol):

The barriers last year weren't very good so I think we should close the road instead.

CO'N: Champagne is an integral part of the celebrations.

RB: If we could tackle all the issues including street cleaning and noise issue. These are important as well as student safety.

*Amendments:*

Change 'reported' to 'found' and 'good' to 'superior'.

*BOTH PASS.*

Andrew Copson (Balliol):

Strike 'Believes 3'.

HPL: University have said that they might not want to close the street. However we could go back to them and say we think this is the best option.

Andrew Copson:

We need to tell the uni that the best possible way is to close the road.

CO'N: If uni has to take responsibility for the road closure.

*Move to vote.*

AC: We ought to be fighting for the best possible solution and the uni ought to take the responsibility.

HPL: If we go in with something unrealistic it will make us look bad.

PASSES.

*Move to vote.*

HPL: This will give us something to work with.

Matthew Richardson (St Peter's):

Makes Oxford seem like a bourgeoisie place.

PASSES.

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Makes Oxford seem like a bourgeoisie place.

PASSES.

*Procedural motion to move Motion 8 up the agenda.*

PASSES.

## 8. Street Trading

HPL: At the end of last term I went to a council meeting and I want to consult students on what they think is best.

RC: This is about giving the local council the power to control some types of street trading in the city centre. The council has approved the introduction of this but it needs further consultation before it will come into effect. We need to gather wider views before Easter. If the byelaw is implemented we want to have in place an agreement with the enforcers (e.g. police) over how they will impose the law, how they should intervene etc..

SFQs:

Chris Allan (Somerville):  
Is the indicative poll about whether we like the byelaw or how it should be implemented.

HPL: Both hopefully.

CO'N: Is there enough time.

HPL: Yes.

*Move to vote.*

PASSES

RC: The background to this is that local authority powers are quite patchy and there is nothing specific that we can easily regulate, e.g. selling things, offering services, etc.. Recently received a number of complaints about these "service activities" which we can't do anything about. This will give us something concrete to work with. At the moment we can't for example do anything about someone shouting in the street if he isn't selling anything. Also, problems of people being approached in the street. This byelaw would plug that gap. We will draw up agreement with the police about implementation. Council has to apply to government for byelaw to be approved – they have final decision.

RD: Will everyone have to apply for a permit?

RC: Byelaw won't make anything illegal. It will give powers if they are causing an annoyance or nuisance.

RB: How is "annoyance" classed?

RC: As far as I know other councils haven't had to prosecute – always been resolved thru discussion with person concerned. If lots of complaints then we act.

Laura Stephenson (Hertford):  
Flyering?

RC: I think it's a service.

Dominic Curran (St Hugh's):  
How does it affect homeless, beggars and busking?

RC: Haven't been any problems elsewhere.

Andrew Copson (Balliol):  
What happens at the moment?

Dominic Curran (St Hugh's):

How does it affect homeless, beggars and busking?

RC: Haven't been any problems elsewhere.

Andrew Copson (Balliol):

What happens at the moment?

RC: Usually just go and talk to them.

Daniel Simpson (Balliol): In theory we could prosecute – what would punishment be.

RC: Implemented by magistrate – maximum of £500 I think.

Chris Allan (Somerville):

Does it cover charities, political groups, etc?

RC: There has to be a sale or transaction. Minutiae of it unknown but magistrate unlikely to follow something petty.

Greg Hilditch (Hertford):

What's the point?

RC: Will give us power to control this and with other things this has always been a sufficient deterrent.

Neil Cowan (BNC):

Does it have to be "in the street"?

RC: Difficulty of wording and getting approved. Government has "model byelaws" so this just makes it easier.

Shouldn't be any problems in practice.

JHB: Charity collecting – would it be affected?

RC: No. Voluntary contribution. Wouldn't be covered.

RV: Would be really good. Help make Oxford better for us all.

CW: I oppose this because it is trying to stifle parts of everyday life – are we just becoming a bunch of 'miserable gits'.

Dominic Curran:

I think we can all find examples of where this would be good and where it would be bad. Do we trust the council and police to implement it sensibly and fairly.

Timothy Ayles (Trinity):

Should we deprive someone of their living just because they shout?

CO'N: This is common sense. OUSU has policy against these things, e.g. signing financial documents at freshers fair. It is good that we can get these people off the street and it will be safer for everyone.

RD: I think this is too vague.

DP: At the moment the problem is that students don't get a view and don't get involved.

Tom Packer (St Cross):

Some people want these people on the streets.

Ally Arnall (Univ):

I think we need to trust the council. If they don't have these powers then they will doubtless sooner or later need them.

Dan Simpson (Balliol):

This isn't an evil conspiracy and won't take away livelihoods.

Ros Dampier (St Hilda's):

We don't have enough information so abstain.

JHB: I've spent more time soliciting money off people in the street than everyone else in this room put together.

Dan Simpson (Balliol):  
This isn't an evil conspiracy and won't take away livelihoods.

Ros Dampier (St Hilda's):  
We don't have enough information so abstain.

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Andrew Copson (Balliol):  
Will OUSU have a representative? Can we make sure that the OUSU President accurately represents us accurately.

*Move to an indicative vote.*

PASSES.

## 7. AUT and NUS

HPL: AUT contacted me. We should endorse their decision. We would want them to do the same. Any questions?

Tim Waters (Magdalen):  
Very important.

Tom Packer (St Cross):  
Did NUS exec or President do this.

HPL: Yes the exec did.

Ian Caddy (St Anne's):  
Will finalists still get taught?

HPL: Yes but other things will be restricted including marking papers. Not actually a strike, a series of boycotts.

Ian Caddy (St Anne's):  
When?

HPL: Starts in mid-February.

Tom Packer (St Cross):  
For how long?

HPL: They have a series of claims, there is no set date.

CO'N: How many fellows are in the AUT?

HPL: Don't know.

Timothy Waters (Magdalen):  
40% in AUT.

Ian Caddy (St Anne's):  
Why are they doing this?

HPL: It's about pay rises, insufficient guarantees about real earnings. Unison have accepted.

Tom Packer (St Cross):  
Do not take position because uni cannot afford to pay lecturers. We need to greater investment. This will be far too disruptive for education.

CO'N: Tutors at Oxford work harder but are not paid enough to keep them in teaching. Uni uses this as an excuse. We should tell the Uni that we value our teachers more.

JB: Does not put anyone at risk. We should express solidarity.

RD: Solidarity is very important. Government will not give more money to teachers and lecturers.

CO'N: Tutors at Oxford work harder but are not paid enough to keep them in teaching. Uni uses this as an excuse. We should tell the Uni that we value our teachers more.

JB: Does not put anyone at risk. We should express solidarity.

RD: Solidarity is very important. Government will not give more money to teachers and lecturers.

Tom Packer (St Cross):

Pay claim will take away from money from students, will disrupt our members.

*Move to vote.*

PASSES.

#### *9. Sweatshop labour*

CW: We have policy. This just enhances it. Hopefully we all agree that sweatshops are bad.

Tom Packer (St Cross):

Not students as students. Sweatshop labour is bad but what alternative is there to this? Living standards will decline for labourers.

Ros Dampier (St Hilda's):

Packer's talking rubbish. Ethics committee has investigated this thoroughly. It is relevant to us so please vote for it.

Dom Curran (St Hugh's):

Amendment that because Freshers Fair t-shirts are probably made in sweatshops we should add Resolves 4 as 'OUSU to follow these principles'.

*Amendment PASSES.*

*Move to vote. Summation speeches:*

CW: This is a good motion. Packer is talking a load of crap. See the attached report. Ethical trade is good.

Tom Packer (St Cross):

This will cost the university and us money. It will not help the 3<sup>rd</sup> World. There are better ways of doing this.

PASSES.

#### **n. Any Other Business**

CO'N: The Daily Mail want an arts student.

HPL: Recycle stuff please.

CW: Want co-chairs for ethics, wom cam and pro-choice.

1st week Hilary 2004