

OUSU

council minutes

Minutes of 1st week Council held at 2.30pm on Friday 23rd January 2009 Jarvis Doctorate Hall, St Edmund Hall

- a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- b. Matters Arising from the Minutes
- c. Ratifications in Council
- d. Elections in Council
- e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers
- f. Reports from the Executive Officers who wish to make reports
- g. Questions to Members of the Executive
- h. Emergency Motions
- i. Passage of Motions Nem Con
- j. Motions of No Confidence or Censure
- k. First readings of Motions to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders
- l. The Budget or Amended Budget
- m. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure
- n. Other Motions
 - i. motions affecting ousu members as ousu members
 - ii. motions affecting ousu members as students at Oxford University
 - iii. motions affecting ousu members as members of the student movement
 - iv. motions affecting ousu members as residents of Oxford
 - v. motions affecting ousu members as residents of the United Kingdom
 - vi. motions affecting ousu members as citizens of the world
- o. Any Other Business

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

No points arising from the minutes

b. Ratifications

1. Ratification of Freshers Fair Report

- a) The report is set out in the same format as last year for comparisons
- b) Summary of recommendations
- c) No problem with Freshers Fair good feedback

Alex Ball (University College):

Some colleges which have disaffiliated members had problems with their students not being able to enter in.

Rebecca Morgan (Pembroke):

A lot of people don't know that the fair is organised by OUSU

Jake Leeper (LMH)

Advised that if they had tried to have a more personal approach this year but that they had not had an OUSU banner due to costing. He advised that the disaffiliated colleges had been advised on how to ensure smooth entry for their students but that this not may have fed down to the students, would try to ensure that this was resolved for next years event.

Ratification clearly passed

2. The Electoral Regs

The Bi-election will be conducted as per the statutory elections.

Ratification clearly passed

Technical Specifications
Will use the same electronic voting system as last year
Ali Brown (Hertford College)
Will mail merge work better?
Madeline Stanley (LMH)
Voter codes already sent out should work better

Senior Majority Passed

d. Elections in Council

I. Election for Publicity Council

Rachel Cummings (Somerville)
This is the ability to represent OUSU as OUSU not as an OUSU event.

Nominations:
Meg Powell-Chandler (Corpus Christi College)
Only applicant

e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

Verbal Addition to Presidents Report

Welcome to you all, please get involved.
Thank you to Maria for all her help with OUSU Council and a welcome and introduction to Karen
Thanks to sabbatical officers.
Rent Committee met there was a good turnout and exchange of ideas it would be useful if more people want to come along as it is important that we ensure that colleges aren't passing their debts on to students.
Advised about "Message of the Week"

No Questions

VP Welfare

Advised of the change of time for Welfare meeting
Advised about Listening skills seminar

VP Women

Pointed out the Sexual Violence Seminar if interested get in touch with her or just turn up
Forced Marriage – updated the pages of the website about this if more information needed please get in touch

VP Graduates

Mentioned the organisation of the International Students Careers Fair
Announced the International Student Festival and advised any one interested in taking a stall to contact him

VP Access & Academic Affairs

No additions

VP Charities & Community

No additions

f. Reports from the Executive Officers who wish to make reports

Environment & Ethics Officer

Apologised for his lack of written report.

Advised that the Council is now recycling plastic in colleges if your college hasn't purchased then talk to me. He is taking on the University with regard to Social Responsible Investment as to why nothing has been done regarding this.

The issue of the Exam regulations booklet is being debated and he is fighting for 3 booklets in libraries.

Grad Academic Affairs Officer

That OUSU are trying out a new message of the fortnight, informing people about issues that they may not know about.

Reforming College Advisors, first point of call for Graduates, he is meeting with Presidents and looking at the facilities that are provided. Please contact him if you have any information.

No Questions

i. Passage of Motions Nem Com

1. Constitutional Review Committee

No Opposition

Motion passed without discussion

2. OUSU to promote completion of National Student Survey

No Opposition

Motion passed without discussion

3. 2nd NUS Extraordinary Conference

Opposed by Rosanna McBeath

4. RAG event 'Wax a Hack'

Opposed by Jack Wellby

5. Junior Tribunal

No Opposition

Motion passed without discussion

6. Condemnation of Israel's attack on Gaza

Point of Order

Elliott Golend (Pembroke)

Requests that this motion is brought further up the agenda as he and various other people will have to leave before the end of Council and he believes that it would benefit from having a full debate.

Point of Clarification

Does Elliott propose that it be brought to the beginning of the meeting?

Yes

Israel / Gaza Motion brought to beginning of meeting.

n. Other Motions

6. Condemnation of Israel's attack on Gaza

The Proposer Nawaz Ahmad (Balliol) unable to attend is therefore represented by Emilie Francois (Merton College)

Emilie Francois (Merton College)

Presumably by the show of people at the Council Meeting the issue arouses strong emotion, the focus should be on the suffering and the dead. She is aware that often facts and figures get lost or overlooked, (quotes the following)

1330 Palestinians have been killed at least half of these were civilians

437 children under age of 16 killed

14 medics

4 journalists

This operation was in response to rocket fire into Israel which was in contradiction to the existing ceasefire which had already been broken by Egypt

Would like to focus on the people affected and not debate the politics.

Would like a Condemnation of the destruction of University in Gaza

Would like to raise the issue of the type of weaponry being used by Israel, for which the UN are considering taking Israel to a court of human rights, as they are using 'white phosphorous' in the most densely populated area of the world. It is a permitted weapon but not in residential areas.

The destruction of medical facilities, mosques and schools. A clinic that run by Christian Aid and funded by the UN, with a large red cross on the top of the building, whose co-ordinates were well know outside of Gaza and with 6/7 blue crossed ambulances outside was targeted. This was deliberately targeted, an evacuation warning was given but only moments before, no one was harmed but the expensive equipment inside could not be saved.

Christian Aid relies on funding from UK citizens

Chair points out that she was given 7 minutes to speak and therefore any opposers will be given the same time.

Opposition to Motion

Grace Hailey (St Edmund Hall)

Would like to say that making a condemnation of this sort does also make a political message, especially since the motion is directed as a condemnation of Israel. Doesn't think OUSU can fully represent the University by voting on this. Also people don't know enough about it to be represented. OUSU should try to represent all. Doesn't think that Council should be taking that stand unless there is a referendum.

Alex Bulfin (University College)

Doesn't agree with the Motion as feels that can't take a point that we can't vote. No one has taken a mandate from their Colleges so can't vote, as haven't taken the opinion of their JCR so would be voting only from own conscience not representatively.

Debate:

Noor Rashid (St Edmund Hall)

Thanks for speeches. He feels that people should have taken votes from their college council to have taken a mandate.

Sarah Burton (Hertford)

Advised that she did send an e-mail around but that 4 days is not enough time to call a JCR Council. Feels that OUSU should not be debating motions such as this, that it should not be political but only representative.

Rachel Cummings (Somerville)

Advised Motions can be about anything according to the Constitution

Micah Smith (St Anne's)

The proposition is only concerned with the suffering of one side in the conflict, feels it should focus on the fact that there is suffering on both sides.

Feels that British University's always go after Israel

Jacob Turner (Worcester College)

Agrees with the people that have spoken stating that it isn't OUSU's place to vote on this because of the political nature. The room is clearly divided between representatives from both sides. Should be a motion which equally reflects each side.

Point of Information

Feels can be a balanced objective of the situation, yet still condemn one side because of the consideration of Human Rights.

Shouldn't be passing as it stands, the title should be changed, especially since people are only giving their own opinions, should look at the faults of both sides.

Point of Information

Motion title could be changed

Daniel Lowe (St Edmund Hall)

Feels motion is carefully worded as actually only relates to the current situation. Feels representatives have had time to take a mandate and that it is common place for e-mails to be taken into consideration.

Point of Information

A lot of representatives are new so they may not have had a chance.

People not good at checking e-mails

Daniel Lowe (St Edmund Hall)

It is a Proctorial requirement that students check their e-mails every 24 hours

Point of Information

The agenda was not mailed out to JCR Presidents

Point of Information

Could discussion of this motion be delayed until people have mandates from their Colleges?

Should argue that we should not have this policy if you feel strongly that this motion should be tabled for the next Council.

That is wrong to say that OUSU should not be passing motions like this, if you do believe that OUSU Council should not discuss motions like this, then you need to bring policy in concerning this.

British Universities are incredibly strong, therefore student unions have to take political stands, the anti-apartheid movement started in UK Universities.

Point of Clarification

If wanted to be tabled for next time, then a speech for proposition and for opposition would have to be made and the a vote would be taken.

Point of Information

Do the amendments return with the motion automatically?

Yes.

Point of Order

Much debate, should give them 2 weeks in order to take a mandate to ensure that they are confident as to

how they are voting.
Propose hear amendments then.

Point of Concession

Clear about what clarification is on. Clear on Motion. Let us not make it into a political issue. It is fundamentally about lives that are lost. The point is about the suffering.

Jack Wellby (Jesus)

May be worth discussing amendments so that we are clear with what you are taking to your Colleges.
Decide whether we are qualified enough to make the amendments or whether we should bring the motion and the amendments. Think complicated and should discuss amendments and trust your judgement to vote on behalf of your College.

Point of Clarification

Vote for whether Motion should be left until next Council or whether should be upheld this time.

Tabling for 2 weeks time

27 votes

Matter is not currently laid upon the table.

Discussion of Amendments

In favour of the Amendments

Echo's sentiments of people that spoke in favour. It has been a tragedy for the innocent civilians. We should not ignore Hamas, something we need to understand, for the Israel State it is a mistake.

Refused to take Points of Information

Killing of civilians is seen as a success for Hamas. Hamas fires most of its rockets between 7.00pm and 8.00am in the morning. They sign rockets because they are so proud of what they do. If we are going to talk about this then it would be callous and intellectually corrupt to ignore this.

Point of Clarification

Vote by parts

Emilie Francois (Merton College)

Agree that the loss of life is deplorable. You should have to quote your sources and be factual. Should be clear what we are taking about which is Israel's attack on Palestine, if you are concerned about Hamas's tactics then should introduce a motion regarding this.

Point of Information

Asked to quote figures of rockets fired – Emilie Francois quoted these unfortunately they were not recorded

Point of Clarification

When we pass motions like this do we need to verify the accuracy of the source?

Chair advises should use common sense.

Noor Rashid (St Edmund Hall)

Opposition to Amendment 1. Strike down CN4 and CN5, lack of context.

Suggests both sides have used civilians

Daniel Lowe (St Edmund Hall)

Very important that we don't disenfranchise students, must talk about humanitarian events on both sides.

Divide Amendments into parts and only vote on recent events end of 2008 until now.

Point of Order

People have to leave as Jewish Sabbath is starting shortly. To table whole discussion for two weeks time. If we really want to have a quality debate, and are serious about passing a Motion then everyone who wishes to discuss this should be able to be there.

Point of Clarification

Factual sources can we a) make his point of order that people circulate their sources as part of the debate and b) can we start Council earlier so that everybody who wants to attend is able to.

Important that we discuss it now as lots of JCR representatives that don't feel that they have mandates to vote on this

Vote in favour of leaving motion on table till two weeks time.

42 – The matter is laid on the table till two weeks time.

Results of the Election for the Publicity Committee

Meg Powell-Chandler elected to Publicity Committee

d. First Reading of Motions to Amend the Constitution or Standing Orders

1. NUS Delegate Voting Policy

Daniel Lowe (St Edmund Hall)

Feels that it is important that wishes of the Council are expressed at the NUS but it is also important that people are allowed to vote on their own mandates if it was something they were elected on

Jack Matthews (Jesus)

Serious problem with number of people going for position of NUS delegates

Point of Clarification

NUS States that we have to elect our NUS delegates in cross campus ballot. One thing you should be aware of is that there is no RON for NUS delegates

SFQ

What would happen if an issue came up before the conference but after their manifesto came up?

Paul Dwyer (Keble)

Problem filling NUS delegate positions already. Proposing a RON for next NUS Council. Should be passed.

Point of Information

Policy only makes sense if there is a RON, if get elected without a RON. Can you amend a motion?

Move to Vote

Clearly Passed

n. Other Motions

1. Constitutional Review Committee

Passed

2. OUSU to promote completion of National Student Survey

Passed

3. **2nd NUS Extraordinary Conference**

Passed

4. **RAG Event 'Wax a Hack'**

Daniel Lowe (St Edmund Hall)
Believe Jack should be waxed

SFQ

Where are they getting waxed? Which part of the body is being waxed.

Will depend on how much is donated will depend how much they wax, greater the donation more waxed.

SFQ

What happens if they don't have much hair?

Other challenges may be introduced, all legal

Opposition

Jack Wellby (Jesus)

No luck getting it voted down. So wants Lewis to agree.

Lewis Iwu (New)

Require a guarantee for Tom Haynes

Move to Vote

Motion Passed

5. **Junior Tribunal**

Passed

n. Any Other Business

Lewis Iwu (New)

Will consult on timing for next meeting

JCR must be sent agendas

3rd Voters must stay for rest of Council

Another OUSU Representatives meeting on Wednesday and the Gaza Motion will be covered

Motion 3 Passed Nem Com

NUS Extraordinary Conference

Paul Dwyer (Keble)

Advised that this was used to put through a motion with little resistance, as this 2nd Extraordinary conference was not budgeted for and therefore Universities could not afford to send through a full delegation.

The Motion to the NUS will partly be to do with deploring them for doing this and also against the amount of cat calling that takes place by members of the NUS Executive towards speakers from the Floor

