

OUSU

council minutes

**1st week Council to be held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 20th January to be held at St Hilda's in the Vernon Harcourt Room
Sign in from 5.15pm**

- 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

Minutes of 7th Week council passed

Minutes of termly council passed

Minutes of Special Council passed

c. Ratifications in Council

I. Technical Details

Council notes and approves:

- I. Technical Details of the Voting System for the Hilary Term 2010 by-election for the position of Vice-President (Graduates) (Appendix I)

Proposed: Stefan Baskerville (University)

Stefan specified that the voting system we use needs to be ratified for electing VP Grads this term.

Passed

d. Elections in Council

Stefan Baskerville the Acting Returning Officer delegates to Madeline Stanley for the Elections

The OUSU Returning Officer.

Ronnie is standing but he is not here. The RO suggests that the election can still go ahead.

2 Deputy Returning Officers.

No one stands for the positions of DRO's

4 members of the OUSU Internal Affairs Committee.

There are two candidates for the Internal Affairs Committee;

Joseph Wales and Jonny Medland.

Husts are called for

Joseph Wales: Answer to standard questions: OUSU, not yet, no.

The RO advises that they will have 2 mins to hust.

Joseph Wales (St Hughs):

I am Joe I sit on Steering Committee and am Chair of Council, was a DRO last time. I have a really good understanding of the constitution and think that I could bring a great deal to this committee.

Jonny Medland (The Queen's):

Answer to standard questions:

I was a member of the Lib Dems, and a member of Oxford Student Lib Dems, am still a member of Oxford University Amnesty International, No and No

The Committee was set up last term to review changes to Constitution and the Standing Orders. I think that it is important that the rules of how OUSU functions are clear and I think I would be good at this.

Question:

Do the members feel it is a negative thing that both the people standing are already involved in OUSU?

Jonny Medland (The Queen's):

I would love more people to stand, yes it would be good if people stood outside the exec, but this is actually dependent on people standing which they haven't so far despite the fact that there have been many opportunities for them to get involved in the running, organisation and scrutiny of their Student Union.

Joseph Wales (St Hughs):

Think that candidates should be judge on their individual merit, not on whether they are already an active member of OUSU. More people should get involved as its really important.

Question:

What's your fave ousu rule?

Joseph Wales (St Hugh's):

Schedule 3 of standing order

Jonny Medland (The Queen's):

No clapping in council

4 members of the OUSU Scrutiny Committee.

No one stands for OUSU Scrutiny Committee

4 members of the University Rules Committee.

Stephen McCarty not here, but Madeline reads his hust.

e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

President – Stefan Baskerville

Today's report is going to be a little different as it is a result of work I have done over the Christmas vacation, and about challenges OUSU faces over coming two terms and how I think OUSU should meet these challenges.

Firstly going to advise why we have a student union and why we particularly need an effective one now.

We need a body that is representative that articulates well the student experience to make it the best it can be. If you look at the range of work OUSU has been involved in over last term, reviewing disciplinary procedures, look at Student Advice Service over 80 in a sustained way, and 100 students overall. Work with common room officers 160 meetings. 30 committee meetings along with briefings and trainings. Focus on improving the student experience in Oxford.

Why we particularly need one now?

Higher Education is entering most difficult period since the 1980s cuts to HE funding will be really significant in the coming years and the university will be taking difficult decisions on how students taught, who is taught and what is taught, the core things. If we don't have a strong student union to represent students voice then we won't be able to influence the decisions that are made. This is why need stable OUSU.

Challenges we face, first relates to registration with the Charity Commission. Second to do with funding. Registration to become a charity with the Charity Commission will require a change in our structure; the category we used to fall into was abolished by the 2006 Charity act. To become a registered charity we have to be a going concern. We have to have a realistic prospect of standing on our own two feet. When we decided to register we also decided to incorporate. The adoption of a Memorandum and Articles of Association and legal identity means we are faced with questions on what membership should be, the composition of a trustee board and the role of OUSU Council. Three crucial. Time to talk about other questions. Need to talk today about membership, who should be members. All students should be members as all students should receive OUSU service, best prospect of being democratic and representative and this is the best way. First proposal is that we need to adopt as OUSU council, is that we support the principal that all students should be members of the new charity. There will be implications from that principal on the way that we are funded. Think very clear if you look at budget 2010/11 we are projecting a substantial deficit of the tune of £65,000 the current funding level can not support OUSU as a going concern, as a registered charity.

Page 6 of mauve sheets, bar chart shows our financial history for the last 10 years. This is not going to change unless we change our funding model as it mismatches what we do and who we do it for. Funding should flow to its members we have to conclude affiliation fees are not the way to fund. This means going to the university united, we want to work on improving student experience and we need a block grant. Memorandum of understanding between the University and the student union, lists all of the way the union currently works with the university and is at this time in negotiation. Once created this will set the relationship. Just one thing on premises, our current premises are not suitable for purpose, inaccessible to disabled, not energy efficient.

Membership and the implications of this.

There is a timetable on the back page of purple booklet. I have laid out a timetable, report to you now, explain content of paper, this will be emailed out and posted on website. Meeting for interested students on Friday at 10.00am. Deadline for Council Friday at 5.00pm. Will be submitted to 3rd week council and then will go to JCCSM. Will go to Education Committee on Friday but will be advised that it is only in consultation. This cannot not be delayed. We have to start discussion now to resolve internal differences and become united. We have to show that Common rooms and OUSU, want it funded in a sustainable way. The unity point is important, when we think how we get this done.

Trend in HE is towards Student Union, chapter 4 of Higher Ambitions, whole chapter devoted to students and their experience. Trend is greater focus on student voice; we can't afford to be left behind. We are the best

University in the country, yet unless we sort ourselves out, we are going to be missing out on the major decisions that are going to be taking place. Fundamental decisions coming, we don't want a student union beset with the problems that OUSU has had in the last few years.

Think who should be members, once made that decision, then how else would we fund rather than a central block grant. No mention on mechanism of how University should fund OUSU its up to PRAC as to how it finds the money. Joint decision of collegiate university and University shouldn't prejudice the mechanism. We need to go to University and say OUSU is important and that we could do so much more if sustainable and we want it properly funded.

Daniel Lowe (St Edmunds):

Do you think there is a risk of loss of autonomy if all funding from University. Are there any penalties if we delay incorporation for a year?

Stefan Baskerville

Yes it will bring greater scrutiny on our spending, but I don't think this is really a problem; we are improving communication between OUSU and common rooms. Almost all other student unions are funded by block grants, and all other unions get by. Ought to question how much autonomy we actually have now when we have so much debt?

With regard to penalties well we started talking about this in Sept 2006, so the penalties will relate to another year of a President working on this rather than campaigning for students, and the fact that we may not be properly set up when the Browne review is completed. Delaying another year just prolongs the day. We need to take it off the Presidents desk.

Ben Britton:

Firstly I would like to congratulate you but also to say your comment to end affiliation fees is interesting. How would you envisage voting rights, if move away from common rooms?

Stefan Baskerville:

What I am proposing is not a major change, mainly just want to remove the financial factor of disaffiliation. Propose formalising the provision that was in 1994 ed act, that is why both the NUS and charity commission suggest that the members of the company should be students.

I think it is a good thing that OUSU is composed of common room reps. My thinking on this, is can't think of a way of coercing common room officers from attending if their colleges didn't want to. Then if moral or political issue that common room chooses not to have a voice. Maybe could look at directly appointing people, but this was actually abolished not long ago. If council would like to reintroduce then we can consider, can be element of over activity.

Jason Keen (Univ):

Would like to applaud everything you said. The University has previously ruled them block grants to OUSU out unless OUSU can competently manage their money. Can we reassure them that this is now the case?

Stefan Baskerville:

This is part of the related discussion we will be having with the University and is particularly central to the memorandum of understanding we will be drawing up. How does the relationship between us develop, how do they monitor us. There clearly needs to be improvements. Welcome discussion with them on how we are monitored. Have to make sure we retain autonomy but be sure that they are happy with the amount of monitoring that they get. We should have a conversation with them about outside trustees, as they know a lot of people in this area. But don't want someone from University sitting on trustee board. The University is not going to move towards a block grant unless they feel happy with OUSU management.

Jesse Harber (St Hilda's)

How do you see the scale and scope of the services to students changing?

Difficult to express as on strategic review group, and I don't want my personal impressions to cloud this until it has reported in 5th week. Initially won't change, mostly stay the same until this is set up as then we have a stable basis for us to move forward. Cannot develop organisation on how it operates now. The focus is to get us on a stable footing, then see where we go from there.

Jesse Harber (St Hilda's)

Do we think if the University gives us a block grant, then it will be enough for OUSU to carry on giving all the services that it gives now?

James Nation (Merton)

On a college level is this a discussion on a college basis or with bursars?

Stefan Baskerville:

Think we should go to JCC and say that this is what we want, they will then decide which committees it should go to next. Decision will be taken by a committee, which has representatives from conference of college on. Need to limit what we do agree on what we want and then be united in going to university in what we want. Up to you to sort it out, not up to us for us to determine. I would not consider it an acceptable outcome if common rooms end up spending more on OUSU than they currently do.

Lukas Walrich (Merton)

In your view common rooms would not be members of the company. How is Cambridge moving in this debate?

Stefan Baskerville:

2nd They are not, they already registered as a registered company a long time ago.

Issue of common rooms as members, we need to be quite careful. Members of company would be 20,000 students, consent of 75% of those turning up would be needed to change the mem and arts. I still think that it is valuable to have common room reps as members of OUSU council. Advisory council, we are going to have a trustee board. OUSU council is going to be an advisory council, will take all major decisions. Some occasions when trustees can make changes without recourse to the advisory council which will mainly be to do with financial viability.

I think in collegiate system, still important to have common room reps, this would include disaffiliated common rooms if they would like to be involved. Think federal structure still important. If they were the members of the company then every time a new common room president was elected would have to change members of charity, which would be incredibly difficult.

Jonathan Lafferty (Regents Park)

If you remove common room fees, do common room reps, then not have a reason to turn up, will then they stop coming and council stop being representative?

Stefan Baskerville:

I actually think would be likely to get greater involvement if you get rid of affiliation fees, as then debate moves on to things that directly involve students. So no not sure would have that effect.

Daniel Stone (St Peters)

Would there have to be cuts in other areas if the university gives OUSU a block vote?

Stefan Baskerville:

No don't think so. I am not thinking there would be a substantial difference about what the University spends. Not proposing massive increase in spending on OUSU just a rethink.

Andrew Rigby (Balliol)

Is it a possibility, would levee this block grant back to students, on individual fees?

Stefan Baskerville:

If did would join the University of Buckingham as only second uni to do this, don't think would be appetite for this especially since the recent controversy there. To join them would not be a good thing. Yes legal possibly but an unlikely outcome.

David Barclay:

What do you think likelihood of the University mucking us around, saying less money to bursars of colleges, making JCR's ambiguous about this being a good thing. If try to do, what should we do if there is this tension?

Stefan Baskerville:

They win if we get divided, we have to maintain unity. A story that is told in here, why we need a student union and what the value of this is, as long as keep in mind and don't get distracted by what bursars say. Budgeting a complex process he may already have decided to make cuts. Don't think acceptable if common rooms pay any more as they are already paying too much. Why would you fund through affiliation fees, no rationale for this. Need to keep going at this saying why valuable and what we want.

Dani Quinn (Merton)

What mechanisms for scrutiny of OUSU are there?

Stefan Baskerville:

New scrutiny committee, urge you to stand on it. Reports to council and questions. Complaints committee, which is currently being reviewed.

Hannah Cusworth:

How would this move to how OUSU is respected in committees, do you think University would think that we would have more weight?

Stefan Baskerville:

Think will have an impact as it will remove any doubts on who we represent. When you are in an unincorporated situation were we are an association and a federation, introduces an element of doubt, no understanding of how council made up. Would assist us as would be clearer.

Lukas Walrich:

What does it mean to have a loss of £60,000?

Stefan Baskerville:

Essentially the University is paying for it, coming out of OUSU assets, essentially just running down reserves, which probably came from the University originally.

We currently have net current liabilities. Outstanding payment of £200,000 to University. If they wrote this off we would have £180,000 in assets but this would go in three years. This is the end point we can't register with charity commission, as it is, needs a resolution. This is an opportunity, can set the direction of student representation off now have to do it well.

Really happy to meet any of you on individual basis, come to meet on Friday, if want to meet individually then do president@ousu.org

Kat Wall - VP Women

Two welfare notices. Disordered eating increase in terms of our awareness of students who have concerns on this, couple of things that trying to do to support them. Enough every Thursday in Dorfman Centre at St Peters. Running supporters session in OUSU next Friday and Friday at third week, running disordered eating training, so if welfare officer then please come along to this training email women@ousu.org.

We are really willing to come to your common rooms to talk to your common rooms about this, not only women only would like to do as much as possible to support them on this issue.

Well being week in 3rd week trying to look at in a holistic way. Mental well being tai-chai country pub walk. Please publicise.

No Questions

Dani Quinn - VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities

Just want to add, am setting up a mental health magazine, so many people have mental illness but it can be quite lonely. A lot of really exciting stuff, if you want to submit anything then email mindmatters@ousu.org.

Advocacy training get in touch and student support get in touch if you would like it for your college. Also training for Chairs on Friday, mental health workshop, and disordered eating in well being week. If there is something else that you need training on just let me know.

Sarah Hutchinson - VP Graduates

Not huge amount to add, last 3 weeks meeting with MCR presidents, getting an idea of different issues in common rooms. One of things that I have been looking at is language and people feeling isolated when they get here. If anyone has experience of this then please let me know, the more information we have and about which departments it relates to the better. Would like to support, different things people found effective.

Mature student's drinks at Harris Manchester next Tuesday, usually really good event, nice way for people who are a little older to meet other people.

Jonny Medland - VP Access & Academic Affairs

All in report wrote our response to the first round of the Browne Review. Gives good overview of how system developed since 2006.

The big thing is complaints procedure, good direction of travel if you want to ask more about it. 5.00pm full time outreach officer from University is coming along. Really good.

Eorann Lean - VP Charities & Communities

Come and find me if you want to know anything. Environmental workshop I went to on Tuesday first step in what University is doing about Climate Change.

Haiti tea on Monday at 12.30pm please come to raise money and have a chat with other common room officers

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

Jack Matthews – Common Room Support Officer

We very much like to come and visit as many common rooms as possible to talk about what OUSU is doing this term and to receive feedback from them on what we're doing if you would like a visit email me.

Santander have agreed to put on a training session for treasurers of common rooms.

If you use Mi-voice for your elections and have never used it, I am happy to train you. Please advise me if you are having an election then let me know so I can ensure that mi-voice is online at that time.

Societies, emails to lots over the last week if you are a member of a society please check that they have got it if not get them to get in touch.

Hannah Cusworth - Academic Affairs Campaign Officer

Show you who I am, working on producing a library guide for longer opening hours. If you have done work on Libraries then please get in touch.

Also running finals forum. Come to advocacy training.

No questions.

c. Passage of Motions nem con

1. OUSU Budget 2010 – 2011

Opposition

1. Regulations for the HT by-election for VP (Graduates)

Passes Nem Con

2. Junior Tribunal Shortlist

Passes Nem Con

3. Dates of the Hilary 2010 OUSU by-election

Passes Nem Con

4. Student Representation in Divisions

Passes Nem Con

5. Student Representation on the Admissions Committee of Conference of Colleges

Passes Nem Con

6. Undergraduate Understanding of marking criteria

SFQ

7. National Convention Against Fees and Cuts

Opposition, moved to debate.

I. The Budget or Amended Budget

1. OUSU Budget 2010 - 2011

Council Notes and Accepts

I. The attached OUSU Budget 2010 – 2011.

Proposed: Stefan Baskerville (University)

Seconded: Jonny Medland (The Queen's)

Stefan Baskerville (Univ):

OSSL income explains our projections there; detailed proposals on what spend a new training budget on. When we have a trustee board, we should train students on how to be on this. Far to long we have been out of step with what goes on elsewhere. Nothing currently in staff line but will be developing. Budget for conferences, to ensure that OUSU creates relationships and is put in contact with what goes on elsewhere in the student sector, what we do will improve concomitantly.

Think quite bleak to adopt as a budget, but also positive.

Turn to annex 5 you will see what new budget looks like. Propose sending two budgets, one this one how rubbish affiliation fees are, send another budget this is what we propose should look like. Hope won't confuse but think it is needed.

Jason Keen (St Johns)

You mentioned training for Sabbatical trustees. Still have to outline who the trustees will be. Does saying you will be training Sabbatical officers prejudice this decision.

Stefan Baskerville:

There is an assumption that some of the student trustees will be sabs since they are running OUSU, but not necessarily only OUSU sabs who would go on this training, could be any of you. Not just for sabbaticals.

NUS Cards, not all showed here as being cautious, already received more than we have sold, so hopefully the story will only get better.

Madeline Stanley (LMH)

Are mi-voice really charging us this much?

Stefan Baskerville:

Yes this is the contract.

Madeline Stanley (LMH):

Advises this is not how it was presented originally

Stefan Baskerville:

Maybe should be reviewed could discuss this with you.

No further questions. No opposition

Motion passes

n. Other Motions

1. Regulations for the HT by-election for VP (Graduates)

Council Notes and Approves:

1. The attached Regulations Governing the Hilary Term 2010 by-election for the position of Vice-President (Graduates) (Appendix 2)

Proposed: Stefan Baskerville (University)

Seconded: Jonny Medland (The Queen's)

Passed Nem Con

2. Junior Tribunal Shortlist

Council Notes and Approves:

1. The attached Junior Tribunal shortlist, from whom the Returning Officer is empowered to create a panel and a reserve panel, whose names will be presented to Third Week Council

Proposed: Stefan Baskerville (University)

Seconded: Jonny Medland (The Queen's)

In line with SO.C5h1 and SO.C5h2 the following former members of OUSU are, in order of seniority, eligible to sit on Junior Tribunal:

Tony Lord	RO MT2000
Stuart Hudson	RO HT01
Anthony Fairclough	RO MT01
Nick Bennett	RO MT02
Conor O'Neil	RO MT03
Steve Harper	RO TT04
Angus Hebenton	RO MT04
Daryl Leeworthy	RO MT05
Tania Das	DRO MT04
Kimberley Gillingham	DRO MT04
Dominic Curran	DRO MT04
Matt Baker	DRO MT05
Kirsty McNeil	President 2000
Steph Gray	VP (Finance) 2000
Jane Blumer	VP (Women) 2000
Rhodri Thomas	VP (Access and Academic Affairs) 2000
Eleanor Fletcher	VP (Finance) 2001
Antonia Bance	VP (Women) 2001
James Rowlands	VP (Welfare) 2001
Will Straw	President 2002
Sean Sullivan	VP (Finance) 2002
Sonia Sodha	VP (Access and Academic Affairs) 2002
Andrew Copson	VP (Welfare) 2002
Helen Puig Larrauri	President 2003
Rodrigo Davies	VP (Finance) 2003
Dan Paskins	VP (Graduates) 2003
Rosie Buckland	VP (Welfare) 2003
John Blake	President 2004
Alan Strickland	President 2005
Edward Mayne	VP(Finance) 2005
Jamie Frew	VP (Welfare) 2005
Jenny Hogwoef-McCoomb	VP (Women) 2005
Andrea Miller	VP (Graduates) 2005
Helen Bagshaw	VP (Access and Academic Affairs) 2005
Imran Khan	VP (Charities and Community) 2005

Passes Nem Con

3. Dates of the Hilary 2010 OUSU by-election

Council Notes:

1. That the position of OUSU Vice-President (Graduates) for the 2010/11 academic year was not filled in the 2009 OUSU Statutory Annual Election.
2. That a by-election for the position of OUSU Vice-President (Graduates) for the 2010/11 academic year will therefore take place this term.
3. The timetable for by-elections regarding sabbatical officers outlined in OUSU Standing Order C.9.2
4. That OUSU Standing Order C.9.2.1 allows for the timetable for by-elections regarding sabbatical officers to be amended by a simple majority vote of OUSU Council.

Council Believes:

1. That it is important that the vacancy for OUSU Vice-President-elect (Graduates) be widely advertised.

2. That scheduling the by-election for 6th week of Hilary Term 2010 allows for wide publicising of the vacancy and also gives potential candidates more time to consider whether they wish to run and conduct enquiries into the nature of the position.
3. That scheduling the by-election for 6th week of Hilary Term 2010 will also allow the Returning Officer and Elections Committee a suitable amount of time to ensure that the administration of the elections is conducted as smoothly as possible.

Council Resolves:

1. That the Hilary Term 2010 by-election for the position of OUSU Vice-President-elect (Graduates) shall take place in accordance with the timetable outlined in OUSU Standing Order C.9.2.1, except that nominations shall open in 3rd week Hilary Term.

Proposed: Stefan Baskerville (University)
Seconded: Jonny Medland (The Queen's)

Passes Nem Con

4. Student Representation in Divisions

Council Notes:

1. That every Department and Faculty in Oxford falls within one of four Divisions (Humanities, Medical Sciences, Maths/Physical/Life Sciences and Social Sciences)
2. That Divisions are led by a Divisional Board, which is responsible for setting strategic direction for the Division as a whole.
3. That each Divisional Board contains 2 student representatives (one undergraduate, one postgraduate).
4. That practice within Divisions varies as to whether students are on Teaching Policy Committees (or their equivalent), and whether there is a Division-wide forum for student chairs of Joint Consultative Committees, Divisional Board representatives, and the relevant OUSU officer to meet with relevant Divisional officers on a termly basis.
5. That the OUSU Vice-President (Graduates) and Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) seek to support Divisional Board representatives and co-ordinate student responses to education policy.

Council Believes:

1. That Divisional Board representatives should be included on Divisional Teaching Policy Committees (or their equivalent) where this is not already the case.
2. That it is desirable for Divisions to meet with student representatives on a more regular basis than they currently do, and that the model of the MPLS Division which provides for termly meetings including a relevant OUSU sabbatical officer, Divisional Board representatives, JCC representatives and senior officers within the Division is a good way of doing this.
3. That the ability of OUSU sabbatical officers to provide support for Divisional Board representatives would be enhanced if they received either the agendas or papers for Divisional Board meetings prior to them taking place, which is not currently the case.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the OUSU Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) and Vice-President (Graduates) to write to Divisional Secretaries setting out the above policies.
2. To mandate the OUSU Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) and Vice-President (Graduates) to continue to develop ways of effectively supporting student representatives in Divisions.

Proposed: Jonny Medland (The Queen's)
Seconded: Sarah Hutchinson (St. Cross)

Passes Nem Con

5. Student Representation on the Admissions Committee of Conference of Colleges

Council Notes:

1. That the Conference of Colleges is the intercollegiate decision-making structure of which all Oxford colleges are members.
2. That the Conference of Colleges has numerous subcommittees, consisting of college officials including Domestic Bursars, Estates Bursars, Tutors for Admissions and Senior Tutors.
3. That the OUSU Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) currently sits on the Senior Tutors' Committee and the Admissions Executive, which is a joint University & Conference committee which considers undergraduate admissions policy.
4. That there is currently no student representation on the Admissions Committee of Conference of Colleges.
5. That the Admissions Committee considers admissions policy relating to undergraduate admissions, and is reported to by the Admissions Executive.
6. That the Admissions Committee has recently considered issues such as the use of pre-interview testing, the use of contextual data in the undergraduate admissions process and the co-ordination of outreach activity within the university.
7. That many issues which appear before the Admissions Committee are issues on which OUSU has policy and which students feel passionately about.
8. That the OUSU Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) currently sits on a working group of the Admissions Committee looking at regional coordination of outreach activities, and attended multiple extraordinary meetings of the Admissions Committee in Michaelmas 2009.

Council Believes:

1. That student representation on university and college committees is important, particularly when the committees in question make decisions which impact students.
2. That as the OUSU Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) sits on the Admissions Executive and the University Education Committee, that they are a logical person to attend the Admissions Committee as a student representative.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the OUSU Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) to write to the Chair of the Admissions Committee of Conference of Colleges and the University Director of Undergraduate Admissions to request that they be permitted to attend meetings of the Admissions Committee of Conference of Colleges, with similar rights to student representatives at other committees of Conference.

Proposed: **Jonny Medland (The Queen's)**

Seconded: **Alice Heath (University)**

Passes Nem Con

6. Undergraduate Understanding of marking criteria

Council Notes:

1. That final year undergraduates at Oxford have, since 2006, filled out the National Student Survey every year.
2. That the National Student Survey (NSS) is the countries largest survey of finalists.
3. That Oxford, its colleges, OUSU and JCRs are all actively promoting the NSS this year.
4. That in every year from 2006-2009 not more than 56% of NSS respondents (across all subjects) ever indicated that they believed the "criteria used in marking have been clear in advance".
5. That in every year from 2006-2009 Oxford students were either 14 or 15 percentage points behind the national average with regard to believing that marking criteria have been clear in advance.
6. That for years when data is available, Oxford students were also less satisfied than those at Cambridge and Russell Group universities in this area.

7. That since 2006 there has been a consistent upward trend of students with disabilities other than dyslexia saying they do not understand the criteria used for marking.
8. That as of 2009 only 37% of students with disabilities other than dyslexia indicated that they understood the criteria used for marking their work.
9. That there has been no trend of improved student satisfaction with regards to understanding of marking criteria.
10. That there is substantial variation between departments & faculties as to how well their students understand marking criteria and the quality of mark schemes provided.

Council Believes:

1. That for students to fulfil their academic potential they need to understand the criteria against which they are being marked.
2. That an understanding of marking criteria is important for a students' well-being, since it can undermine confidence in their own abilities.
3. That there are existing examples of good practice within Oxford which those faculties with dissatisfied students in this area could learn from.

Council Resolves:

1. To mandate the OUSU Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) and Academic Affairs Campaign Officer to campaign for improvements in this area.
2. To encourage Joint Consultative Committee reps in Departments & Faculties to raise this issue in JCC meetings (or their equivalents).
3. To mandate the OUSU Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) to report back to Council by the end of Trinity Term 2010 of what action has been taken by Departments and Faculties to address the dissatisfaction of undergraduates with the clarity of marking criteria.

Proposed: Hannah Cusworth (Brasenose)

Seconded: Jonny Medland (The Queen's)

Hannah Cusworth (Brasenose):

Over last couple of weeks have been working with Jonny, on the lack of understanding of marking criteria, quite shocking how few people understood what they are actually being marked on. It is even worse for students with disabilities. Thought it was unacceptable, this motion is proposing how best to do this, trying to find a solution and will report back to council to advise how getting on.

Daniel Stone (St Peter's)

People who had read and not understood, had they actually seen the marking criteria?

Jonny Medland (The Queen's)

The problem is students don't know where to find and when they find them they don't understand them. Oxford for last few years has done the worst in the NSS survey for students understanding marking criteria. Wonder what the University is doing wrong on this. Just to update you on what is working it's way through the University now, is the idea that students will understand better if we marked each other's work. Think good idea. The University is feeling very chastised about this.

Kat Wall (LMH):

Are you aware that gender panel is very concerned about this, and would be willing to support?

Hannah Cusworth (Brasenose):

There is not a great difference between the figures of men and women understanding them. If it affected women's confidence more than men, then this would be important. Would be very interested in working with them on it.

Daniel Lowe (St Edmund's Hall)

Will this refer just to finals?

The data from NSS is from finals, so finals, but hoping to do it for all marking procedure as should imagine it would help throughout your university career.

Daniel Vuycich (Univ)

This paper doesn't relate to graduates will you be looking at them?

Jonny Medland (The Queen's)

When doing this have found there is less grad data out there. As usual the Universities have taken less interest in getting data back on graduates. Data doesn't also exist, can't find statistical evidence.

Sarah Hutchinson (St Cross)

Will be putting survey out and will make sure question in on this.

No opposition. Motion passes.

7. National Convention Against Fees and Cuts

Council notes:

1. That the government review of top-up fees is underway, and Peter Mandelson has announced £500,000,000 cuts to Higher Education (according to the Guardian).
2. That on Saturday 6th February there will be a National Convention Against Fees & Cuts, at University College London, currently supported by Sussex, SOAS, and UCL students' unions and other organisations.
3. That this convention is intended to build a national student voice against cuts, to co-ordinate the activities of and to provide students and their unions with the information and practical skills required to fight fees and cuts.

Council believes:

1. That fees and cuts will be damaging both to students' educations and staff's job security.
2. That increased fees and cuts in education funding are a national issue and require a response from students at a national level.
3. That this convention will put students in a stronger position to resist fee increases, course closures, and other cutbacks in education.
4. That we should therefore promote the event and facilitate student involvement.

Council resolves:

1. To send a delegation to the National Convention Against Fees & Cuts, to publish a link to the Convention blog and regular updates on the national campaign against cuts on the union's homepage and facebook page.
2. To advertise the convention and its blog via means such as the weekly bulletin, the website, the facebook page, twitter, posters on lecture sites and in colleges, and any other practical media. Such advertisement shall include a time and place for those attending to assemble, so that they can travel together and take advantage of group ticket discounts.
3. To arrange for members of Council and the Executive to attend.

Proposed: *Hannah Thompson (St. Hilda's)*

Seconded: *Sean Spurr (Jesus)*

Hannah Thompson (St Hilda's):

Basically a meeting across country, national response to govt cuts. This motion doesn't mandate Oxford to support the decisions made at this meeting.

Kat Wall (LMH):

Is the convention against cuts, or fees in general?

Hannah Thompson (St Hilda's):

Opposes the raising of the cap, and tuition fees. Doesn't mean OUSU has to go along with these feelings.

James Nation (Merton)

How is this different to going through NUS.

Hannah Thompson (St Hilda's)

NUS hasn't organised much, hasn't made any difference to the governments policy.

This convention is looking at direct action, demonstrations occupations and strikes of staff. Doesn't mean though that the convention would come to this decision. The NUS hasn't organised anything yet.

Hannah Cusworth (Brasenose):

What is their position on graduate tax?

Hannah Thompson (St Hilda's):

Don't think they have a position on it.

Please could someone else be mandate to co-ordinate it not Jonny, who already has too much work?

Hannah Thompson (St Hilda's):

First meeting was of London University, UCL and Kings. Other student union bodies have used website to coordinate meetings. This motion is going through Cambridge on Friday exact copy.

Jonny Medland (The Queen's):

When you say convention deciding. How would it decide if delegates not there in official capacity?

Birmingham and Leeds not sanctioned have sent other people. This is why I am putting to council.

Speech against

Alex Bulfin (Univ):

Problem with statement of support and title as we have policy on grad tax and this would contradict OUSU policy.

I amendment. Strike council resolves 4.

Accepted as friendly.

Strike council resolves 4

Dani Quinn (Merton):

My only concern is that we could support something without knowing what it resolves. If against grad tax, worried about endorsing something which OUSU council has already made a decision to support.

Hannah Thompson (St Hilda's):

Not supporting any decisions taken at the convention OUSU is not mandated to then follow any decisions they have taken.

Jack Matthews (St Peter's):

Support what Alex says and also with regards transport, propose taking out, Jonny like all other sabs if not in meeting is eating or sleeping, they have no time to do this.

Hannah Thompson (St Hilda's):

Agree happy to do.

Madeline Stanley (LMH)

If misunderstood please let me know but I think it is a good idea if people talk about. If OUSU council has policy on it then good idea for us to say we have policy on it and what it is at this meeting. To be represented there.

Amendment 2. Strike Council Resolves 1 and replace with;

To send a delegation to the N Convention Against Fees & Cuts to a publish a link to the convention blog and regular updates on the national campaign against cuts on the unions homepage and facebook page.

Reservation I have could send out a mixed message. Should send an official OUSU delegation, then they come back and then we decide whether we support.

Hannah Thompson (St Hilda's)

Updates when things have happened. Sean and I are happy to be responsible for.

Amendment accepted as friendly.

Jonny Medland (The Queen's):

Just thought would clarify where the University is on this. We are now waiting to see how much of the cut from HEFCE is falling on Oxford. So cuts are beginning to fall, waiting for the letter to see how much will loose from annual teaching grant.

Not sure what I think on this motion. Would be interested to see how the policy is going nationally. Think we should wait to see what cuts the University is going to make first as it is important that we don't ring fence things. A lot to be gained from working nationally on this. Think good to send people who would report back to council very useful.

Stefan Baskerville (Univ):

Supported by Education Not for Sale and may other organisations just want to state that by giving our support to this convention we are not supporting these affiliated organisations.

Hannah Thompson (St Hilda's):

No, not mandated to support the organisations they support. Not mandated to support their decisions. We can't lose can see what other universities are doing. Shouldn't be a lack of clarity on graduate tax.

Jesse Harber (St Hilda's):

Could you verbally commit to put an item on council agenda after you have attended?

Hannah Thompson (St Hilda's):

Yes of course. Will report back, no point in going if didn't.

Move to vote.

Summary speech in proposition

Hannah Thompson (St Hilda's):

Nothing to lose by attending, need to be nationally coordinated can learn from other campaigns put our voice strongly.

Alex Bulfin (Univ):

With these amendments should vote for it.

No opposition passed.

Election results

Madeline Stanley (Acting RO) reads out the results of the elections.

Ronald Collinson elected as RO

Steve McCarty elected to Rules Committee

Joseph Wales and Jonny Medland elected to Internal Affairs

o. Any Other Business

Steering Committee week on Thursday.

Jesse Harber (St Hilda's):

Just heard that there has been an aftershock in Haiti. St Hilda's is voting that all the charity money it raises this term will go to Haiti and we invite all other colleges to commit to this.

Appendix I

Technical Details of the Voting System for the Michaelmas Term 2009 OUSU Statutory Elections

1. The System

1. The Election will be conducted via the Mi-Voice electronic voting system.
2. Mi-voice is a product of iMeta Technologies Limited.

2. Counting Method for Single Transferable Voting

1. Mi-voice Participation uses the Electoral Reform Society '97 calculation algorithm. Further information on this calculation algorithm can be found on the on the Electoral Reform Society's Website – <http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/article.php?id=48> <<http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/article.php?id=48>>

3. Voting Procedure

1. Mi-Voice generates Unique Voter Codes (UVCs).
2. All voters receive a UVC via email.
3. Voters visit www.mi-vote.com <<http://www.mi-vote.com/>> and enter their UVC. They are then able to vote in all elections in which they are eligible to vote.

4. Counting

1. All counting is conducted electronically.
- Mi-Voice provides a detailed breakdown of the results and counting stages.

Appendix 2

The attached Regulations governing the Hilary Term 2010 OUSU By-Election

The OUSU President has issued the following regulations to govern the upcoming Student Union By-Election

a) Size of JMB entries

1. One full tabloid page (338mm up by 265mm across) for each candidate for sabbatical office

b) Expenditure Limit

1. After inflation, the expenditure limits for this year are as follows:
 - i. £130 per sabbatical candidate

c) Media Participation

1. The RO should allow candidates to be interviewed by the student media only if the editors concerned agree to be bound by a contract drawn up by the RO, which shall include the proviso that the interview shall not be conducted by anyone who is either a candidate or an activist for one of the candidates being interviewed.

d) Definitions

1. "Notice" to a candidate or subject shall mean:
 - i. Notice in person, in writing or by fax to her/his lodge or such other address or fax number (if any) as previously agreed, by email to such email address (if any) as previously agreed, or via telephone call (including the leaving of a voicemail message) to such telephone number as previously agreed, or via SMS or pager to a previously agreed number. Such notice shall be deemed to have been given immediately upon delivery.
 - ii. A candidate or subject who is informed that s/he has information awaiting collection from the OUSU Offices shall be deemed to have received it 60 minutes after the RO's notification or from when they collect it from the OUSU Offices, whichever is sooner.
2. "Political organisation" means any organisation which is:
 - i. A political party ; or
 - ii. An organization affiliated to a political party; or
 - iii. A partisan, political organization including all subdivisions thereof; or
 - iv. Holds and promulgates views of a political nature

e) Construction

1. No electoral official shall be held to account, and no complaint upheld, in respect of
 - i. Any omission in the fulfillment of his /her obligations under these regulations or standing orders, where that omission was wholly and unavoidably caused by outside events.
 - ii. The exercise of any discretionary power granted under these regulations or standing orders, unless the exercise of that power was either purposely unfair to anyone involved in the election; or where it was exercised by an official in a situation where s/he did not have the authority to exercise such a power.

f) Activists

1. Every candidate shall be responsible for registering with the RO any person who is active on his/her behalf 24 hours prior to the open of polls.
2. Anyone who endorses a candidate is deemed an activist.
3. Up to, but no more than, ten people may be active on behalf of the same two candidates without this sharing of activists in itself being evidence of cross-slatting.
4. No agent or candidate may be an activist for another candidate unless on the same slate.

g) Endorsements

1. All endorsements listed on any JMB entry, website or other election material by any current or former OUSU or Common Room official, whether or not their official position is explicitly mentioned, must be followed by statement that these endorsements are made in his/her personal capacity.

2. All endorsements listed on any JMB entry, website or other election material by an official of any other society or institution, whether or not their official position is explicitly mentioned, must be followed by statement that these endorsements are made in his/her personal capacity, unless the candidate/slate in question provide the RO with sufficient documentary evidence to the contrary from the principal decision making body of that society or institution.
3. All statements that endorsements are made in an official's personal capacity must appear in the same size, font and colour as the most prominent part of the text detailing this endorsement.

h) Facebook

1. Candidates may create facebook groups. Members of a facebook group will not be considered activists if they do nothing more than join the facebook group.
2. Candidates may not send facebook messages via their facebook group.
3. The RO must be a member and an administrator of all facebook groups. Only a candidate, his/her agents and the RO may be an administrator.
4. Candidates' facebook groups shall be considered election material and are as such bound by all provisions in the Standing Orders, Electoral Regulations or Rules of Interpretation relating to Electoral Material. Candidates should remove any comment posted on their facebook group "wall", which contravene such provisions. Candidates are responsible for checking the "wall" and should remove any such posts within 24 hours and shall be responsible for any comments which contravene any provisions relating to election material 24 hours after they were posted.
5. Candidates are entitled to shut down the facebook wall application on any group advertising their candidacy and to remove any posting they do not wish to appear on the wall of such a facebook group regardless of whether it breaches any of the provisions for electoral material.
6. The "related groups" application on any candidate's facebook group should be shut down.
7. A facebook message is deemed an email.
8. No candidate or slate may purchase any form of facebook advertising.
9. Candidates may not create facebook "fan" pages

i) Website Domain Names

All websites must be registered. Candidates should note this does not include facebook "group" page.

To register a website, a candidate or agent must submit to the RO to in one email to ro@ousu.org or to the RO or a DRO in person:

proof of purchase of domain name, such as a receipt or confirmation email including the price of purchase.

A signed statement or forwarded email from any person actively involved in creating the website that s/he/they collectively were entirely responsible for creating the website. Unless anyone actively involved in the creation of the website has been paid, in which case a receipt must be submitted and the amount deducted from the candidate's expenditure limit, anyone actively involved in the creation of a candidate's website must be a registered activist.

Candidates must ask permission for any internet expenditure.

In order to ensure that all candidates are correctly costed for websites, it is impossible to cost domain names already purchased. Therefore to ensure fairness all domain names must be purchased specifically for the purpose of the Hilary Term OUSU Elections. To ensure this ruling is enforceable all domain names must contain some reference to the election or a candidacy, such as www.voteForA.com, www.Binousuelections.com