

Council Minutes

1st Week Hilary Term 2015

1st Week Council took place at 5:30pm, on Wednesday 21st January 2015, at St Catherine's College, in the Bernard Sunley Lecture Theatre.

If you have any questions about OUSU Council, please feel free to contact the Chair at chair@ousu.org.

- 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 and the Divisional Board Representatives who wish to make reports
- g. Questions to Members of the Executive and the Divisional Board Representatives
- h. Report from the Student Trustees
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- m. Other Motions
 2. Application Fees for Postgraduate Entry
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 4. General Election Manifesto – Episode One: The Phantom Menace(s)
 5. New Policy
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 7. Accessibility Report
 8. Council Holding the Executive Committee to Account (Take 2)
- n. Any Other Business
 1. Student Advice Service

Louis Trup (Brasenose) – Explained that in the absence of an elected Chair of Council and Returning Officer, he would be acting chair, with James Blythe (VP Access and Academic Affairs) as acting RO. Added that if and when a new chair and RO were elected, they would assume their roles with immediate effect.

a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

No issues were raised with the minutes.

b. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from the minutes.

c. Ratifications in Council

None.

d. Elections in Council

Returning Officer – Joe Smith (Somerville) nominated.

No hust requested.

Joe – 80

RON – 1

SBV – 1

Joe Smith was elected.

Chair of Council – Will Obeney (Regent's) nominated.

No hust requested.

Will – 77

RON – 4

SBV – 1

Will Obeney was elected.

2 Deputy Returning Officers – Matthew Collyer (New) and Tiphaine Ramenason (Worcester) nominated.

Matthew – Explained that he is interested in taking a role in OUSU and would like the opportunity to assist a more experienced Returning Officer in ensuring the elections are run fairly and in the interest of student democracy. Stated that he has the integrity and organisational skills required for this role.

Tiphaine – Explained that she has developed the organisational skills and teamwork skills necessary to this position through previous experience at other institutions as a delegate and a representative. Stated that she has leadership and cooperation skills and can apply these to the role.

Matthew – 34

Tiphaine – 42

RON – 1

SBV – 5

Matthew Collyer and Tiphaine Ramenason were elected.

NUS Delegate – Sarah Firestone (St Antony's) and Jack Hampton (St Catherine's) nominated.

Sarah – Explained that she is reading for an MSc in Global Democracy and Diplomacy at St Antony's College. Stated that she is uniquely qualified for the role for three reasons: representation, experience and dedication. Explained that as an international student and a female postgraduate student, she represents a range of students and can advocate for the needs of all of these groups. Referred to her advocacy experience, having represented the International Relations Students' Association of McGill at United Nations Headquarters in New York at the Commission of the Status of Women. Concluded that she would be passionate in the role.

Jack – Explained that he wanted to be an NUS Delegate as he enjoys being a part of OUSU and as a current JCR president he understands how it works. Informed council that he has attended the NUS Conference twice before as president of a FE institution.

Jack Matthews (University) – Asked the candidates if they commit to be bound by and vote in line with OUSU council policy and if they will be actively soliciting the views of student members prior to the conference.

Jack – Stated that yes he would, as he understands representation and will be acting as he is instructed by OUSU Council and will be taking all appropriate measures to ensure he has the views of students in advance.

Sarah – Agreed that she will also ensure that she has the opportunity to engage with students beforehand so she can accurately represent them.

Omar Rana (St Edmund Hall) – Requested that the candidates elaborate on their previous experience working for political organisations.

Sarah – Informed council that at her previous University she was president of the Female society, she has been involved in the Model United Nations for the last 8 years, she is going to work in Geneva, and she has represented the McGill International Students' Association.

Jack – Stated that he was the elected Disabilities Officer at his FE college, and was also President for a year and a half.

Kevin (St Antony's) – Asked the candidates what the most radical thing they had ever done was in relation to student politics

Jack – Responded that he had attended two student demos in London and organised the buses for students.

Sarah – Organised a council and demonstrations against legislation banning people wearing religious signs in public.

Zuleyka Shahin (Balliol) – Asked if either one of the candidates have ever worked in a governmental department and if so in which government and in what capacity.

Jack – Responded that he had not.

Sarah – Responded that she had not.

Sarah – 60

Jack – 21

RON – 1

SBV – 0

Sarah Firestone was elected.

Rent & Accommodation Officer – Danny Waldman (St John's) nominated.

Danny - Informed council why they should not vote for RON, stating that RON does not love OUSU. Stated that he loves OUSU, chaired the Scrutiny Committee for the previous term and is working on a degree in Contract Law and Land Law which will be relevant to the position in relation to tenancy.

Jack Matthews (University) – Asked Danny what his views are on current City Council's policy with regard to student housing.

Danny – Assumed that the question was in relation to Castle Mill and stated that it was not for him to have a view until it was discussed at Council later in the meeting.

Ruth Meredith (Brasenose) – Asked what experience he had in housing or going to the Tenant's Union or in the wider community of Oxford City rather than the college community.

Danny – Stated that he doesn't have experience in the Tenant's Union at present, and is currently more experienced in the rent side than the accommodation side, but feels based on his knowledge from his studies he will be able to pick this up. Added that working in the wider Oxford community is something he is very keen to do more of.

Danny – 74

RON – 6

SBV – 2

Danny Waldman was elected.

4 Positions for Internal Affairs Committee – Nick Cooper nominated.

Nick – Stated that he is the current chair of Internal Affairs Committee until today and encouraged others to run to join the committee, as well as advertising the vacant positions in Scrutiny Committee, Complaints Committee and the available Part-time Executive positions.

Anna Bradshaw (Wadham) – Asked if he considers the council committees to have an insider problem and if so how is he going to actively work to change this.

Nick – Agreed that this is a problem and stated that it is a real pity. Hoped that more people would consider running and would encourage this. Stated that he is running simply because no one else is. Stated that IAC is so important as you can affect changes to the governing documents and therefore how OUSU is run.

Nick – 80

RON – 1

SBV – 1

Nick Cooper was elected.

3 Positions for Complaints Committee – Hossein Sharafi (Keble) nominated.

No hust requested.

Hossein – 79

RON – 1

SBV – 2

Hossein was elected.

e. Reports from the Sabbatical Officers

Louis ceded the chair to Ruth Meredith (Brasenose) to give his report to council.

Louis Trup (Brasenose) – Stated that the key things he has been working on recently are outlined in the written report and urged council to read it. Informed council that OUSU are currently doing their Quinquennial review, which looks over the highest level of governance. Explained that as part of this we are reviewing how policy is set and requested that people stay around for AOB where he will ask questions about this. Recommended that people look at the IT Innovation Fund and advised council to spread the word to those with ideas for digital projects.

James Blythe (Brasenose) – Highlighted two issues – The Access Showcase, which aims to engage students in access and bring together all access projects and encourage students to be both passionate and thoughtful about access. Secondly, the Education Vision, which will undergo a major student consultation this term, which will return to council after completion.

Louis returned to the chair.

Anna Bradshaw (Wadham) – Stated that she has been doing lots of work around the new harassment policy, as well as work on getting colleges to update theirs. Also encouraged council to look at the motions that WomCam have submitted to the NUS Womens' Conference. Formally notified council that she has taken Yasser Bhatti's place as an OSSL director, following his resignation.

Chris Pike (St Edmund Hall) – Highlighted 5 things: Monday of 3rd week as a pending date for an open meeting for anyone looking to introduce a new liberation rep in their college; 7th week as the date for Disability Awareness Week; February as LGBT history month; made council aware that the Executive have released a statement about Campsfield House; welcomed his new PTE. Added that Marine Le Pen is due to speak at the Union and wanted to make council aware of this.

Ruth Meredith (Brasenose) – Announced that Hertford College had accredited as a living wage employer. Flagged voter registration week which is taking place in third week. Explained that there has been a significant drop in the number of people that are registered and encouraged anyone to get in touch if they wanted to help promote the need to register during 3rd week. Plugged the vacant PTE roles that fall into her portfolio (Environment and Ethic and Charity and Community) and encouraged people to come and see her if they were interested in running.

Louis – Explained we would receive a report from Yasser Bhatti as the outgoing VP Graduates.

Yasser Bhatti (Green Templeton) – Thanked Louis for giving him the opportunity to speech. Referred council to the official OUSU press release for the statement regarding his resignation. Explained that OUSU, the students, the University and Oxford itself mean a lot to him. Added that he became involved partly because of his children, but also felt that he needed to leave due to the inability to both spend enough time with them and fulfill the demands of the job. Thanked Nick (VP Graduates elect) and Marina (Graduate Academic Affairs Officer) for stepping in and helping the sabbatical team out with his workload. Explained to council that he is still in Oxford and available to help out, particularly for a handover.

Louis – Thanked Yasser on behalf of OUSU and the students of Oxford.

Louis and James relinquished the positions of Chair and Returning Officer, and handed over to the newly elected Will Obeney and Joe Smith.

**f. Reports from the Executive Officers and the Divisional Board
Representatives who wish to make Reports**

Marina Lambrakis (St John's) – Introduced herself as the Graduate Academic Affairs Officer and reiterated that she was taking on some of Yasser's workload so encouraged graduates that have any questions to get in touch with her.

Joe Reason (Wadham) – Introduced himself as the new Common Room Support Officer and would be supporting common rooms in any way that he could. Added that he would be working to see why disaffiliated graduate common rooms have left OUSU. Informed council that OUSU representatives can contact him if they are not on the mailing list.

Zuleyka Shahin (Balliol) – Introduced herself as the Graduate's Women Officer. Updated council that last Tuesday she hosted a meeting with womens' officers, as well as LGBTQIA officers. Explained a new structure was put in place where these representatives can report to her and work with her on issues that they are facing. Explained that the meeting focused on a number of issues, one of which was sexual health that are in place, in particular access to condoms, contraceptives and lube across MCRs.

Lindsay Lee (Wadham) – Reported that she has put together a survey on the disability experience at Oxford and encouraged any of those who have experience with disability at Oxford to fill the survey in. Stated that they already have some great, passionate responses and will be using statistics to pull together a report on the findings.

**g. Questions to Members of the Executive and the Divisional Board
Representatives**

Jack Matthews (University) – Asked if the part-time exec can all be emailed and asked to report on the handover that they have received.

Will Obeney (Regents) – Confirmed that he can do that.

Kristina Carney (Hertford) – Asked the Womens' Campaign Officer why she was yet to receive a response to her letters regarding abortion rights and how WomCam approached the debate.

Aliya Yule (Wadham) – Stated that they are in the process of drafting replies that the whole of the committee agrees to so it can be disseminated. Added that she would receive a response when this is completed.

h. Report from the Student Trustees

Will Neaverson (Christ Church) – Informed council that it had been agreed that once a term the student trustees would report back to council on discussions that had taken place at the board. Introduced himself, Eden Tanner and James Elliott as the new student trustees. Encouraged students to contact any of the three of them with any board level issues. In light of the new chair of council, raised the fact that he is expected to report to the board once a term on the activities of council to continue to improve communications between the two bodies. Updated that OUSU's Quinquennial review of its Memorandum and Articles is continuing, and that the student trustee on the group has passed on from Margery Infield to James Elliott. Reported that the Chair of the Finance Committee provided a report which the board as a whole were happy with.

i. Passage of Motions without Discussion

3. RAG Constitution

Council Notes:

1. Last term, the RAG General Regulations were altered to require an annual programme to be passed through Council.
2. That the same changes required RAG to have a constitution.
3. The sabs will be, as part of their campaign governance mandate, be bringing a bigger set of constitutions for Council to adopt later in Hilary Term, and as such is not yet being asked to adopt the RAG constitution.
4. That the RAG election rules would normally be brought to first week Hilary Council, but in the absence of an RO, it was not possible to draft them, and they will be coming in third week.

Council Believes:

1. RAG should continue to grow, and spread best practice amongst Oxford University Students
2. RAG's time is best spent fundraising, not altering their governance, and as such a flexible annual programme is very important

Council Resolves:

1. To adopt the annual programme, as attached in Appendix 1.
2. To note the attached constitution, as attached in Appendix 2.

Proposed: Ruth Meredith (Brasenose)

Seconded: Molly Gilmartin (Queens)

Motion passed without discussion.

4. General Election Manifesto – Episode One: The Phantom Menace(s)

Council Notes:

1. The motion passed in MT14 to create a general election manifesto outlining Oxford students' views on issues to be discussed in the course of the general election.
2. OUSU's policy book has existing policy on various issues that have also been submitted through the online submission form circulated last term.
3. The executive will be able to look through and suggest edits to the wording of the manifesto before it is published.

Council Believes:

1. That these issues in should make up part of the manifesto OUSU will campaign for in the run up to the General Election.
2. That the policy steer given in previous councils should be echoed in the approach to these issues in the manifesto.

Council Resolves:

1. To include in the general election manifesto:
 - a. OUSU's belief in free education for undergraduate study.
 - b. OUSU's opposition to the Campsfield detention centre and other similar detention centres.
 - c. OUSU's belief that higher education funding structures disadvantage asylum seekers and that this should be changed.
 - d. OUSU's opposition to any future cuts to the disabled students allowance.
 - e. OUSU's Opposition to unpaid internships.
2. To allow for the exact wording of these sections of the manifesto to be heavily informed by the wording of the OUSU policy, though not necessarily exactly the same.
3. To mandate the executive committee to ensure that the intent of the policy is reflected in the wording of the manifesto.

Proposed: Louis Trup (Brasenose)

Seconded: Ruth Meredith (Brasenose)

Motion passed without discussion.

6. Castle Mill

Council Notes:

1. Its previous decisions in Trinity 2013 and Michaelmas 2014 to defend the Castle Mill housing development and prioritise graduate student housing over aesthetics.
2. A resolution (Appendix 4) submitted to Congregation by 66 academics calling for the University to spend £30m taking the top floor off the development.

3. Congregation is the sovereign body of the University and its decisions are binding on the whole University.

Council Believes:

1. That to spend £30m on such a project would drastically reduce available money for postgraduate scholarships and other key student priorities.
2. That to evict 300 graduate students for 18 months-2years would drive up rents for all students and low-paid residents across Oxford.
3. That because the top floor is almost entirely family accommodation, this plan would have a particularly serious impact on student parents and carers.

Council Resolves:

1. To give its support to the flysheet sent to members of Congregation by the Executive Committee (Appendix 5).
2. To mandate the President and Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) to apply to speak in opposition to the resolution at the meeting of Congregation on 10th February.
3. To make Council policy that we support the continued existence of the Castle Mill development with appropriate and affordable mitigation of the environmental impact.

Proposed: Louis Trup (Brasenose)

Seconded: James Blythe (Brasenose)

Motion passed without discussion.

8. Council Holding the Executive Committee to Account (Take 2)

Council Notes:

- i. Its duty to scrutinise certain OUSU office-holders.
- ii. OUSU Policy (3rd week, Michaelmas 2014) mandating all Executive Officers and Divisional Board Representatives to report to and attend (or send apologies for) every meeting of Council, and for the Executive Officers to attend every meeting of the Executive Committee.
- iii. That minutes and reports to 5th and 7th week Councils of Michaelmas Term 2014 are available on the OUSU website, permitting students to see which Executive Officers did or did not report to those meetings of Council.

Council Believes:

1. Once more, that Executive Officers and Divisional Board Representatives usually work hard in the interests of students, that this work should be communicated to students via Council, and that Council should hold officers to account.

Council Resolves:

1. To add the following to the Policy Guideline referenced in Notes 2:

7. To mandate the President to ensure any Executive Officer or Divisional Board Representative is notified of:

- a. the existence of this Policy;
- b. how to sign in at meetings of Council and the Executive Committee, and of how to send apologies for these meetings;
- c. how to send reports to meetings of Council;
- d. the consequences of not fulfilling the mandates in this Policy;

by email to their University email address, and within two weeks of taking office.

Proposed: Nick Cooper (St John's)

Seconded: Eden Tanner (St John's)

Motion passed without discussion.

j. Motions of No Confidence or Censure

k. Emergency Motions

k. Motions Authorising Capital Expenditure

1. It Happens Here and Code4Rights

Council Notes:

1. 'It Happens Here' (hereafter IHH) is a non-autonomous campaign of OUSU, focusing on raising awareness and supporting work around sexual violence in Oxford.
2. That IHH receives an annual budget of £600, of which it has already spent £100 on a White Ribbon activity in Michaelmas.
3. That as a part of its work raising awareness of sexual violence in Oxford, IHH will be hosting 'Anti-Violence Valentine's Day' on the 14th Feb.
4. Code4Rights (C4R) is an organisation founded by Oxford University Graduate Entrepreneur Joy Buolamwini. It focuses on providing women the computational skills needed to create meaningful technology in their communities, and the concept was piloted in Zambia, where 3 million + people have access to the technology created.
5. As a part of this day and in collaboration with C4R, IHH will be running the first facilitated impact project for women in the UK, in the creation of a 'First Responders App' with the first step being a workshop held as a part of Anti-Violence Valentine's Day
6. That this funding will not only facilitate the participation of women in Oxford in the creation of meaningful technology, but also allow the production of the First Responder App, available for both iOS and Android, enabling members of the Oxford Community to

have access to support materials in the event they or someone they know need support in the aftermath of an incident of sexual violence.

7. That the initial operational costs (£125) are the minimum to host the app on both platforms.
8. That IHH will contribute half of the cost.
9. That supporting IHH in this way will enable the campaign to run more events in this academic year, and support the initiation and continuation of a new working relationship with C4R.
10. That an application is being made to the IT Innovation Fund, and commercial sponsorship is being pursued, to reimburse C4R for the remainder of the project costs and sustain any further development.
11. That the closing date for the IT Innovation Fund is 14th February, which does not allow the operational costs to be covered before the event takes place.

Council Believes:

1. That engaging more women in Oxford in the creation of meaningful technology is a worthwhile endeavour.
2. That the creation of a 'First Responders App' will greatly increase access to the information in a timely and functional way compared with the current method of distributing paper leaflets.
3. Combatting sexual violence and supporting survivors of sexual violence is a priority of OUSU, and work in this area is not confined to the It Happens Here campaign.

Council Resolves:

1. To award 'It Happens Here' £62.50 from the discretionary campaigns budget to cover operational costs of launching the First Responders App with Code4Rights.

Proposed: Eden Tanner, (St John's)

Seconded: Anna Bradshaw, (Wadham)

Eden Tanner (St John's) – Introduced herself as the new co-chair of It Happens Here. Explained that she was asking council for 50% of the costs to make a 'First Responders App', the function of which is covered in the 'notes' section of the motion. Added that no other sources of money have come forward and they are asking for £62.50.

Henrique (Trinity) – Asked if there was a plan to extend the app to Windows phone.

Eden – Stated that they would be starting with Apple and Android but were hoping to extend to all platforms including Windows phone and Blackberry.

Motion passed with no opposition.

I. Other Motions

2. Application Fees for Postgraduate Entry

Council Notes:

1. The University is planning on increasing the application fee for postgraduate entry from £50 to £60.
2. The current rate, £50, ties with only a small number of institutions as the most expensive application fee in the United Kingdom; with the raise, Oxford will officially be the most costly to apply to.
3. Most British universities, including many of the top-tier ones such as Imperial College London, do not charge an application fee. Whilst top American universities tend to charge an application fee (albeit not all of them), they have a system in place to waive the fee based on needs; the University has no such system.
4. The increase is not calculated based on the actual costs in processing applications.
5. Graduate education in the United Kingdom is already one of the most expensive in the world.

Council Believes:

1. Education should be accessible to all regardless of background.
2. Graduate students and their research output contribute significantly to the University. The best students and researchers do not always come from a well-off background.
3. A raise in application fee will discourage people from all backgrounds, especially those from an underprivileged or another country, from applying to the University, in contradiction with the principle that Oxford should choose the best students regardless of financial situation.

Council Resolves:

1. To oppose the proposed raise in application fee.
2. To urge the University to develop a system to waive or decrease fees for less financially able applicants.
3. To make Council Resolves 1 and 2 and Council Believes 3 OUSU policy.

Proposed: Hilary Chow (Kellogg)

Seconded: Marina Lambrakis (St John's)

Hilary – Introduced himself as the Divisional Board Representative for social science graduates. Explained that the university are planning on raising the application fees for postgraduate entry from £50 to £60. Added that this does not appear to be justified by any costs and as far as he is aware is due to the fact that they want a 5% surplus in their fiscal year. Also raised the issue that the majority of British universities do not have an application fee.

Danny Zajarias-Fainsod (Wadham) – Asked if there was a chance that this could backfire if the University look into the fee and increase it.

Hilary – Responded that they have never justified this on costs and as other universities do not have this fee he doesn't see how it is possible that they could.

Henna Shah (Regent's) – Suggested a clause in the motion that the University consider a system based on financial need.

Marina Lambrakis (St John's) – Responded that this is covered in resolves 2.

Luke (Mansfield) – Asked why the focus would be on the financially less able rather than all prospective students.

Marina – Suggested that he propose an amendment to make it all students which states that we oppose it altogether.

Louis – Proposed a procedural motion for Yasser Bhatti to speak on the issue.

No opposition.

Yasser – Informed council that he was in the committees when this came up and explained the University opinion that as this has not been raised for 6 years, this reflects the inflation. Warned that the cost would escalate beyond £60 if we set a new system.

Kristina Carney (Hertford) – Raised the issue that it is difficult to qualify as not financially able, as it is hard to apply and a lengthy process.

Move to vote.

Opposed.

Nick Cooper (St John's) – Argued that minds have already been made up either way.

Danny – Stated that we have the chance to propose an alternative and there is still more to discuss on the issue.

Vote on move to vote:

For – 50

Against – 13

Hilary – Reminded council that whatever the outcome of opposing the raise, this motion would give OUSU an official stance and will put the incoming VP Graduates in a better position.

Danny – Stated that he is not against the concept, as there is no justification for having the fee, however does not believe that this is the way to deal with it. Suggested that this would be better used as a bargaining chip to get change for those not financially able.

For – 27

Against – 26

Abstain – 21

Motion passes.

5. New Policy

Council Notes:

1. The requirement for Policy Guidelines, usually set by Council, to guide how OUSU is run (Article 13.2; General Regulation 6).
2. The mandate from 7th week Council, Michaelmas Term 2014, for Sabbatical Officers to review the current Policy Book and propose any important omissions to this Council.
3. That no amendments are being proposed to policy on academic affairs, as this will be brought in Trinity Term as part of the Education Vision.
4. That no amendments are being proposed to policy on accessibility, as these are being brought to this Council as a separate motion ('Accessibility Report Motion').
5. That no amendments are being proposed to graduate policy, as these will be considered later this term by Postgraduate Strategy Summit.
6. That Policy Guidelines lapse after three academic years, meaning any Policy last passed in the 2011-2012 academic year will lapse at the end of Trinity Term 2015. (Any lapsing Policy will be brought to Council's attention in early Trinity Term for possible renewal).

Council Believes:

1. That it is important for the Policy Book to contain any Guidelines that students consider relevant, in order to guide OUSU's Officers in how best to represent students.
2. That OUSU's Policy Guidelines should accurately reflect all (small 'p') policy that is in fact guiding the work of OUSU's Officers.

Council Resolves:

1. To make Believes 1 and 2, Resolves 2 and all of Appendix 3 Policy Guidelines.

2. To recommend that future Sabbatical Officer teams review Policy Guidelines in a timely fashion and submit motions to Council to cover any important omissions.

Proposed: Anna Bradshaw (Wadham)

Seconded: Nicholas Cooper (St John's)

Anna Bradshaw – Explained to council that OUSU Council has a policy book and it is important that this remains up to date and that it accurately reflects the things that as students we want our representatives to be guided by. Policy provides steers when issues come up, and guide us on how to respond. The additions to policy in this motion simply bring up things that we already do, or have implicit guidelines on through previous relevant motions and mandates. Stated that it has been raised by others that the vegetarian policy may cause a negative reaction, and explained that this does not mean meat and fish will not be available at OUSU events, but that people will have to specify that they want it, as the vegetarian option will be the default.

Martine Wauben (Pembroke) – Asked if policy with a small 'p' refers to motions, manifestoes etc. that are not passed as specific policy guidelines.

Anna – Answered that these are things that have come more through council, exec, events etc., however that the broader conversation about what policy means which is happening with the Quinquennial Review will help to clarify this. Added that they were mandated to tidy the existing policy up which is what they are aiming to do.

Danny (Wadham) – Asked if there is any point in this when there is out of date policy and contradictions still in the book.

Anna – Explained that last term all of the out of date material was removed from the book in the motion which prompted this.

Move to debate.

Jack Matthews (University) – Agued that passing policy by large chunks in the appendices is not a healthy way to pass it as the detail is hidden away from the motion. Added that this motion does not fulfil the obligations that were put on sabbatical officers last term. Urged that council should be debating the larger issues that affect all students, not the dietary requirements for a minimal amount of events per year. Stated that we have no policy on mental health, the finals gap, our relationship with Oxford City Council, student number cap and student housing with regard to the city council. These are the things that the officers should be bringing and debating.

Anna – Explained that some of the gaps in policy that Jack highlighted would be coming through the accessibility work and the Education Vision. Claimed that she has fulfilled the mandate to put in the areas that we already have implicit policy in but stated that she has only

included the non-contentious items that we are clearly already doing, and stated that other issues do need to be brought separately as part of a longer process.

For – 53

Against – 1

Abstain – 1

Motion passes.

7. Accessibility Report

OUSU Notes:

1. The motion which passed through Council of 1st Week, MT14, mandating multiple officers to engage with an accessibility review of OUSU, and mandating the Vice-President (Welfare & Equal Opportunities) to give a report to Council following this review.
2. The Accessibility Report, provided by the Vice-President (Welfare & Equal Opportunities). (Appendix 6)

OUSU Believes:

1. That accessibility is not an optional extra for OUSU's structures, events and campaigns; it is essential if we are to fulfil our aims and values.
2. That the Accessibility Report is the result of consulting multiple students and of reports from multiple elected officers.
3. That the Accessibility Report reveals some important steps which need be taken, but also reveals the lack of awareness, at current, of what could be done to improve.

OUSU Resolves:

1. To accept the Accessibility Report in full, including the resolutions therein:
 - (a) To make all of points 1 through 5 OUSU policy.
 - (b) To mandate the officer(s) included in square brackets by each of points 6 through 9 to take the relevant action.
 - (c) To positively consider, in the long-term, and where possible and appropriate, each of points 10 through 17 when organising OUSU structures, events and campaigns.

Proposed: Christopher Pike, St Edmund Hall

Seconded: Eden Tanner, St John's College

Amendment

To add to point 1 in the Accessibility Report (Appendix 6):

“For clarity, trigger warnings and content notes are information on the upcoming content of an event, a talk, a paper, a Council motion, or any other OUSU contribution (written or as part of an event), which serve to allow students to avoid topics they are uncomfortable with (in the case of content notes), and to avoid topics they find triggering (in the case of trigger warnings). Pronoun circles are an aspect of the beginning of any meeting or event in which people will be referencing what other people have said (which includes almost all meetings of OUSU campaigns), where each person states the name and the third-person pronoun (he, she, they, etc.) as which they wish to be referred.”

Proposed: Christopher Pike, St Edmund Hall

Seconded: Nick Cooper, St John’s College

Chris Pike – Informed council that this accessibility motion was mandated upon himself and other members of the executive. Explained that this is the report following the motion which is split into three sections. There are 5 sections to pass as policy, 4 mandates and 8 strategy points for OUSU to work towards. Added that the amendment is simply for clarity.

Jack Matthews (University) – Asked if pronoun circles would apply to meetings of council.

Chris – Replied that this is not the intent, and that it is for events where people frequently address each other. Suggested it would be useful for people to give pronouns when they speak in council, but it certainly wouldn’t be necessary for all those in attendance.

Martine Wauben (Pembroke) – Agreed with Jack and suggested it could be made clear in the Chair guidelines.

Chris – Stated instead that he would just amend the motion.

Amendment:

To change appendix 6.1 to the following:

‘All OUSU events should consider trigger warnings and content notes to be regular practise, and also for it to be regular practise to specify one’s pronouns when one speaks at an event.’

Proposed: Chris Pike (St Edmund Hall)

Seconded: Martine Wauben (Pembroke)

No opposition to amendment.

For – 49

Against – 0

Abstain - 1

Motion passed as amended.

3. AOB

1. Student Advice Service

Chris Pike (St Edmund Hall) – Explained the Student Advice Service to council and asked if they considered the suggestion of Saturday drop in sessions to be a good idea.

Council appeared in unanimous agreement that this would be a positive thing.

Louis Trup (Brasenose) – Explained to council how currently works and asked for recommendations on how council believes that policy should be made. Urged council members to contact him with any further thoughts following the meeting.

Danny (Wadham) – Stated that we need to review further how we set out policy and how we make something policy.

Jack Matthews (University) – Stated that he does not understand why this is being debated. Argued that it has been done before and that there is nothing wrong with how we set policy, the problem is simply a lack of promotion of the policy and a lack of knowledge of policy.

Louis – Responded that this is something that a number of people have brought to us as needing a change.

Anna – Asked Jack if he thinks that the Executive should be able to make policy.

Jack - Stated that they should be able to make interim policy that council should then be informed of; for example, over the vacation something may happen that needs a response. Added it should be brought to council when possible for them to have their views.

Nick – Agreed with Jack that it should be better advertised. Reminded council that they can overturn policy if there is a need to do so.